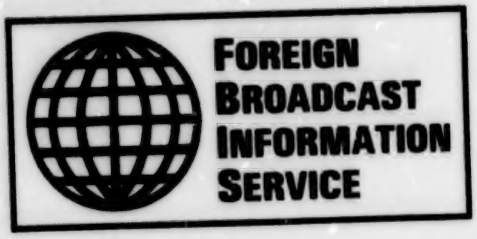
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Daily Report

East Asia

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FBIS-EAS-88-050 *15 March 1988*

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Japan

Sato To Fly to U.S. To Settle Beef Issue

OW141441 Tokyo KYODO in English 1428 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Takashi Sato will fly to Washington, possibly on March 26, in an attempt to settle the beef and citrus trade issue, a foreign diplomatic source in Tokyo said Monday.

Sato will meet with U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter and Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng in a bid to settle the ticklish issue by the end of March, when the current bilateral agreement expires, the sources said.

Prior to the minister's departure, the sources said, Tsutomu Hata, an influential farm policy planner of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, will fly to the U.S. next Sunday for preliminary talks with U.S. Government officials.

Sato's visit will demonstrate Japan's determination to break the deadlock and reach any agreement possible with the U.S. But Japan has not yet decided on whether to present a timetable for liberalization of such imports as the U.S. requests.

The government, LDP and producers' organizations will have to make a final decision on this point by Sato's departure.

Japan-U.S. negotiations on bilateral beef and trade have bogged down because of the wide gap in views of the two countries. The U.S. has threatened to bring the issue to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in early April unless Japan specifies a timetable for the liberalization of such imports.

Chip Makers Rebuff U.S. on Market Access

OW141147 Tokyo KYODO in English 1132 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—The Japanese semiconductor industry on Monday rebuffed the U.S. allegation that U.S. firms are not yet given enough access to the Japanese chip market.

Katsushige Mita, president of the Electronics Industries Association of Japan (EIAJ), told a regular press conference that the association sent a letter to that effect to the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) of the United States the same day.

The refutation was made in reference to an SIA report addressed to U.S. President Ronald Reagan early this month which said that U.S. access to the Japanese chip market remains insufficient.

In the rebuttal, EIAJ pointed out that sales by foreign firms in Japan soared 31.8 percent in the period from the second half of 1986 to the second half of 1987, while sales by Japanese chip makers during the same term grew only 10.9 percent.

Further, the Japanese association said the Japan-U.S. semiconductor agreement does not guarantee a market share of 20 percent for U.S. firms, and countered the SIA assertion that the share is supposed to be raised to more than 20 percent by 1991.

EIAJ officials are expected to explain their views on the matter and discuss ways to expand foreign market share in Japan at a meeting with SIA officials to be held in California in late March.

Uno Discusses Joint U.S. Defense Study

OW121207 Tokyo KYODO in English 1105 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 12 KYODO--Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno told the Diet Saturday that Japan and the United States will limit their joint study on possible airlifting of U.S. troops only in the event of an attack on Japan.

Defense Agency Director General Tsutomu Kawara said the joint study might cover the concept of Prepositioned Overseas Material Configured to Unit Sets (POMCUS), which calls for stockpiling U.S. heavy artillery on Japanese soil in advance of an emergency.

Uno said U.S. artillery and equipment stockpiled in Japan under the POMCUS concept can be used in the event of war not only in Japan but in the Far East.

The foreign minister said, however, the United States is required to propose a prior consultation with Japan if it uses the stockpiled arms in a war in the Far East.

Uno and Kawara were replying to Japan Socialist Party questioner Tetsu Noda at a session of the House of Councillors Budget Committee which went into the second day of an 8-day session to deliberate the 56.7 trillion yen national budget for Fiscal 1988.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci and Kawara, who met in Washington in January, reached agreement to start the joint study on how to rapidly reinforce American forces in Japan in the event of war.

Takeshita on 'International Obligation'

OW130849 Tokyo KYODO in English 0812 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said Sunday that Japan must fulfill its international obligation even if it is painful.

The prime minister made the remark during a ceremony at his alma mater Waseda University, which is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of its founder, Shigenobu Okuma and Takeshita's being prime minister.

Takeshita, 64, who graduated from Waseda's commerce school in 1947, told some 1,600 participants the Japanese people should remember that Japan owes its postwar properity to peace.

The prime minister, who succeeded Yasuhiro Nakasone as prime minister on November 6 last year, said the Japanese people, who have been enjoying the outcome of postwar peace, must take the lead in seeking world peace.

The time is past when Japan thought it needed to think only about itself and so also is the time gone when Japan felt compelled to reduce its trade surplus and restructure its economy only when there was external pressure, Takeshita said.

"It is time for Japan to perform its duty in the international community, even if it may be painful, and to promote domestic and diplomatic policies independently," he said.

Takeshita said Japan has become one of the most materially affluent countries but that what is demanded now is to achieve spiritual enhancement and richness of heart.

The prime minister said tax reform is the greatest problem at present, with education reform another important issue.

Takeshita, Japan's second prime minister from the university, praised the unity of Waseda alumni in the ruling and opposition parties, saying 61 out of the 512-seat lower house and 17 out of the 252-seat upper house members also attended the school.

Takeshita, who started his political career as a prefectural assembly member of Shimane Prefecture in western Japan, and was first elected to the Diet in the 1958 general election, said there are lots of Waseda graduates who are playing active parts in politics, business, literature, sports and the arts.

Some 40 Diet members who are graduates of Waseda University, including Kenzaburo Hara, speaker of the House of Representatives, Masaaki Fujita, president of the House of Councillors, and Chief Secretary Keizo Obuchi, attended the ceremony.

Waseda founder Okuma (1838-1922), a politician, who served as prime minister twice and as a cabinet minister several times, established the university in 1882 as the Tokyo Senmon Gakko, which was renamed Waseda University in 1902.

Tanzan Ishibashi, a Waseda graduate, became prime minister in 1956, but had to resign after two months because of illness.

Takeshita on Northern Islands Issue, USSR

OW150447 Tokyo KYODO in English 0427 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita told the Diet (parliament) Tuesday [15 March] that the Soviet occupation of four Japanese islands discourages the Japanese people from harboring friendly feelings toward the Soviet Union.

Replying to an opposition questioner at a session of the House of Councillors Budget Committee, Takeshita reconfirmed the government's official stand to pursue a stable relationship with Moscow after settling the territorial dispute and concluding a peace treaty.

Japan will never abandon this position, he said.

Tomi Baba, a Komeito member, called for Takeshita's comment on a Japanese-Soviet opinion poll which found that 17.6 percent of the 1,090 Japanese surveyed had friendly feelings toward the Soviet Union.

The poll, conducted jointly by Japan's KYODO News Service and the Soviet official news agency TASS in February, also said 88 percent of the 635 Soviets surveyed had friendly feelings to Japan.

Moscow maintains there is no territorial dispute with Japan, and has rejected Japan's claim on the four islands off Hokkaido—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan Islands and the Habomai group—which Soviet forces occupied in the closing days of World War II.

Takeshita on Mediating in ROK-PRC Relations

OW150745 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Takeshita stressed at the House of Councilors Budget Committee sesssion held today that after taking various measures to sound out ROK intentions, such as talks at the regular Japan-ROK foreign ministerial consultations scheduled late this month, Japan plans to play a positive role as mediator in improving the relations between China and the ROK.

At the interpellations held this morning, Tomi Baba, Komeito dietman, asked whether Japan should play a positive role to promote the move as noted in ROK President No Tae-u's intention to improve the ROK's relations with China. To this question Prime Minister Takeshita replied: When the current situation on the Korean peninsula as well as China's relations with North Korea, the DPRK, are taken into consideration, I don't think it is good that only the atmosphere is created in advance. However, I agree, in principle, with the idea that Japan should play a positive role in improving the

relations between China and the ROK based on a realistic position. And it is possible that this issue will be brought up at the regular Japan-ROK foreign ministerial consultations that will be held when Foreign Minister Uno visits the ROK on 20 March.

Takeshita then stressed that after confirming the ROK's intention, Japan plans to play a positive role in improving the relations between China and the ROK.

North Korean Defector Complains of Conditions

SK120021 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Mar 88 p 2

[By correspondent Chong Hun]

[Text] Tokyo—Min Hong-ku, the former North Korean soldier who fled to Japan seeking political asylum, has voiced strong complaints about his destitute condition in Japan, a Japanese newspaper published here said Thursday (March 10).

The MAINICHI SHIMBUN quoted Min as saying, "Seeking political asylum, I hoped a minimum level of existence would be guaranteed to me like other political refugees in accordance with international practices."

Min stowed away to Japan on a Japanese freighter "Fujisan-Maru No. 18" on Oct. 30, 1983.

But his request for political asylum has not been accepted by the Japanese authorities and he was detained in an immigration camp in Yokohama for four years before being released on "parole" on Nov. 2, 1987.

He lives in an unknown place on the outskirts of Tokyo with his movements restricted. He has reportedly made a living doing odd jobs.

During an interview with a reporter from the MAINICHI SHIMBUN, Min appealed for an improvement of his poor position in Japan and expressed anxiety as to his uncertain legal status.

He was quoted as saying, "I have not been assured of any rights as a human-being. The Japanese government seems not to be doing anything to protect me."

JCP, CPSU Delegations Begin Talks in Tokyo

OW150339 Tokyo KYODO in English 0257 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—The Communist Parties of Japan and the Soviet Union began a regular consultation at the Japanese party's head office here Tuesday, JCP officials said.

Representatives of the two parties will discuss ways to enhance their cooperative relations to promote antinuclear and peace movements, the officials said.

Viktor Afanasyev, editor of the Communist Party newspaper PRAVDA, led a three-member Soviet team in the consultations, the second in a series, which will last probably for a week, they said. Afanasyev, a Central Committee member, and his group arrived in Tokyo Monday.

The two other delegates are Ivan Kovalenko, deputy head of the Soviet Communist Party's International Affairs Department, and Vasiliy Saprin, a senior member of the same department.

Tetsuzo Fuwa, vice chairman of the Japanese party's Central Committee, headed a five-member JCP team in the session, the officials said.

JCP chief Kenji Miyamoto and then Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko issued a joint statement in December 1984 to strive for the abolition of nuclear arms.

The two parties held the first regular consultation in Moscow in 1986.

Group Claims Attack on PRC Consulate

OW150027 Tokyo KYODO in English 0006 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Fukuoka, March 15 KYODO—An underground organization calling itself "Hotaru" (Firefly) has claimed responsibility for attacking the Chinese Consulate General in this city in southwestern Japan last Friday night.

In a 738-character statement in Japanese delivered in the mail to the Fukuoka branch of KYODO News Service Monday, the group—believed to be of rightists—said the attack on the mission was designed to destroy it.

A blast from a shotgun was fired at the three-story structure from a passenger car but no one in the building was injured.

Police said they are now analyzing the document to determine whether it is authentic as it failed to mention the group's action in detail and was not sent immediately after the incident.

The statement, believed to have been posted Sunday night or Monday morning, accused a high-ranking officer at the Fukuoka Prefecture police headquarters of abusing his authority and conducting excessive investigations.

The police officer named in the statement is in charge of investigations into bribery cases and gangs and the statement warned the group will conduct further acts of destruction.

Fukuoka Mayor Keiichi Kuwahara, expressed his regret to Chinese Consul General Guo Chu when he visited the Consulate General Monday evening, city officials said.

Kuwahara handed Guo a copy of an assembly resolution urging policy to take resolute action against terrorism and violence, the officials said.

Guo told Kuwahara he was grateful for his friendly attitude and for the expressions of sympathy he had received from political and financial circles as well as friendship groups.

Kuwahara will visit the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo Saturday to express his regrets to Chinese Ambassador Zhang Shu.

Meanwhile, the Consulate General has informed Fukuoka police that it will not file an official report on the damage caused in the incident.

Chinese diplomats did not disclose reasons for failing to make a report, but they were believed to have considered the matter from the viewpoint of bilateral diplomatic relations.

PRC Seeks Help in Developing Hainan Island

OW120815 Tokyo KYODO in English 0552 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 12 KYODO—China has sounded out Japan on the possibility of gaining a massive amount of financial help from Japan to develop Hainan Dao as the largest free trade, special economic zone of the country, Japanese trading house sources said Saturday.

Hainan Dao is China's southernmost island with a population of about 6 million. The 34,000 square-kilometer island has a beautiful coastline and is suited for tourism and resorts.

The island is also believed to have abundant natural resources, such as iron ore, manganese, copper, oil, and natural gas.

The Chinese Government plans to foster the Hainan Administrative Area, which is expected to be elevated to the status of province at the National People's Congress opening later this month, as a financial an industrial center matching Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The overall development cost is estimated at 2 trillion yen. The Japanese sources said China will probably ask Japan for several hundreds of billions of yen in financial assistance as early as in May, when a comprehensive development plan is completed.

At an initial stage of the plan, China will focus on building infrastructures such as port facilities, air terminal, roads, energy and communications systems, according to the sources.

The Japanese business community is sending to Hainan Dao large-scale delegations consisting of representatives from trading houses, banks, securities houses, steel and machinery makers.

The Association for Promotion of International Trade will send a 30-member mission on March 12 and the Japan-China Association on Economy and Trade will also send a 40-member delegation in late April.

Government Surveys Public on Market, U.S.

OW130853 Tokyo KYODO in English 0825 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—About one out of four Japanese thinks Japan should further open its markets while a third of the public favors greater caution, according to a government survey released Sunday.

The survey, on various aspects of diplomacy and foreign affairs, has been conducted every year since 1977 by the prime minister's office. The latest poll was conducted last October, with 2,316 (77.2 percent) of the 3,000 people aged 20 and older.

Those who supported the further opening of Japan's market to protect the world's free trade system came to 26.4 percent, up from 18.8 percent in 1986, while those who insisted on caution came to 34.2 percent, up from 33.8 percent, according to the survey.

The survey said 20.9 percent of the respondents believe Japan need not take the lead in opening its market but should simply keep pace with the United States and West European countries, down 8.8 points from the previous survey.

As for Japan's huge trade surplus, 50.1 percent said Japan should reduce the surplus cautiously, while 16.4 percent said Japan should do its utmost to cut the surplus by readjusting Japan's industrial structure.

The poll showed that 18.7 percent of the respondents believe that Japan should maintain the surplus because the Japanese people are diligent, possess high technology, and export high-quality goods at competitive price.

On trade problems with developing countries, 36.1 percent said Japan should respond positively toward the calls of developing countries for reduction of tariffs, 34.1 percent said Japan need not take the initiative in easing import restrictions, and 7.1 percent said Japan should not respond to the urgings of the developing countries.

As to Japan's economic assistance to developing countries, 38.4 percent said Japan should positively promote such aid, 41.6 percent wanted to maintain the status quo, and 7.5 percent said it should be cut back. The figures were almost the same as in the previous poll.

Asked which regions Japan should attach greater importance to in economic cooperation, 41.4 percent cited Asia, down from 44.7 percent in the previous survey. Africa was the choice of 11.0 percent, the Middle East of 4.7 percent, Latin America of 2.2 percent, and the South Pacific region 1.4 percent.

Those who maintained that Japan's economic assistance should be divided equally among all regions came to 27.1 percent, up from 21.6 percent in 1986.

Fully 66.4 percent thought Japan's economic cooperation has helped improve living conditions in developing countries, while 22.1 percent did not think so.

About a half of the respondents (52.7 percent) did not think that Japan accurately conveys its opinions and stands to other countries.

As for spheres in which Japan should promote "internationalization," about a third of the respondents (30.8 percent) thought opening up markets should take priority, 25.5 percent chose contributions to politics and technology, 12.1 percent cultural exchanges, 10.7 percent tolerance of heterogeneity, and 8.2 percent improvement of the legal status of foreigners living in Japan and acceptance of foreign labor.

According to the poll, 30.6 percent said they would welcome an increase of foreign labor, 18.2 percent were against it, and 41.9 percent wanted to maintain the status quo.

The poll also surveyed the sense of "closeness" or "distance" of the japanese people toward the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and South Korea.

It said 72.2 percent, up 4.7 points over the previous survey, felt close to the U.S., 69.3 percent, up 0.7 points, to China, 42.2 percent to South Korea, up 2.5 points, and to the Soviet Union 9.8 percent, up 0.9 points.

The poll showed 68.9 percent thought relations with the U.S. are good, while 19.9 percent regarded them as endangered.

On the question of trade friction with the U.S., 36.1 percent thought there are reasons for the U.S. positions and 32.7 percent considered the U.S. responds emotionally on various matters.

Police Arrest Radicals on Explosives Charges

OW121239 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 12 KYODO—Police rearrested three radicals Saturday for suspected violation of the Explosives Control Law, police said Saturday.

Investigators said the trio was suspected of producing home-made bombs for use in a demonstration against Narita Airport, scheduled for March 27.

The suspects, all members of the "Revolutionary Army" of the ultraleftist Chukakuha (Middle Core) faction, were arrested in Adachi, Fukushima Prefecture, Friday for providing shelter to colleagues wanted by police.

They were found in the posession of about 50 kilogams of composite explosives.

Police said the explosives, contained in 15 cardboard cases, were found in a truck used by the trio. They said five sets of fake number plates and a large volume of water resolution memo and tools also were found in the car.

Police suspected that the group intended to move their hideout after producing bombs and delivering them to sympathizers for use in the antiairport demonstration.

They said the explosives are enough to make eight powerful bombs similar to those seized in Tokyo in October 1986.

Two bombs and 20 kilograms of explosives were confiscated that time.

North Korea

Daily on South 'Stepping Up' War Preparations

SK150453 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a signed commentary denouncing the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group for stepping up the preparations for a nuclear and chemical warfare in real earnest recently.

The commentary says:

They recently staged a field mobile exercise for a chemical war and held a "joint meeting for chemical, biological and radioactive warfare," while frantically staging the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal, and built a "school of the chemical, biological and radioactive warfare unit" to train large numbers of soldiers for nuclear and chemical warfare. In this way they are stepping up the preparations for a criminal nuclear and chemical warfare.

Facts show the world once again that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are war-maniacs who do not hesitate to commit any heinous warfare to gratify their ambition for aggression on the North.

The Korean peninsula should not be a test ground of nuclear and chemical weapons aimed at exterminating mankind.

The Korean people are watching with vigilance the moves of the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the puppets who are seeking a chance to shower nuclear bombs and toxic gas bombs over them.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets ignite a war against the North in challenge to our people's desire for peace and reunification, the world as well as our nation will never pardon the heinous war criminals.

Paper Says No Following U.S. Two-Korea Policy
SK151131 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0006 GMT 14 Mar 88

[NODONG SINMUN 14 March commentary: "Does National Self-Esteem Sit Well With a Colonial Puppet?"]

[Text] Traitor No Tae-u, who has recently occupied the position of fascist power, is now babbling that his taking of power has paved a way for an era of national self-esteem in South Korea. This cannot be called anything short of presumptuous and ridiculous.

It is basic common knowledge that for a nation to respect itself it must be free from the domination of outside forces. South Korea, however, is a far cry from this. As is widely known, South Korea is a complete colony and a nuclear forward base of the U.S. imperialists. The U.S. imperialists reign in South Korea as the de facto rulers holding all manner of power, including the prerogative of supreme command.

It is none other than the U.S. imperialists who appoint and sack presidents at their whim and it is none other than the United States that has a free hand in formulating and executing the so-called policies in South Korea. The U.S. imperialists permit nothing that runs counter to their interests.

In South Korea national dignity and sovereignty are mercilessly trampled under the aggressors' military boots, the national economy has been thrown into the mouth of a tiger called U.S. and Japanese monopoly capital, and good national morals and manners are being stifled by the Yankee culture, things Japanese, and the American way of life.

The recent games in South Korea, the so-called presidential election and change of government, have once again proved to what extent South Korea has been subjugated to the United States. The game called change of government which has landed traitor No Tae-u in the office of power is a farcical changing of the running dogs staged according to a U.S. imperialists' scenario and their behind-the-scenes control. This view is commonly shared by the South Korean people and world opinion.

People find a clearer picture of South Korea under the colonial noose in the unanimous assertions in South Korean publications which, calling the U.S. imperialists' economic pressure on South Korea a rude act and their pressure a reminder of their past demand for the opening of Korea during the feudal era, have described the industries in South Korea as being struck by a destructive blow and business firms as suffering from fatigue.

Although the puppets are clamoring about South Korea's equal standing and partnership with the United States, this is nothing but a false note.

Former U.S. ambassador to South Korea Gleysteen, saying that for all intents and purposes there can be no equal status between the United States and South Korea, referred to the relations between the two as horizontal ones, while South Korean youths and students called the relations between the two ignominious ties.

Even capitalist countries that are said to have friendly relations with South Korea describe South Korea as part of U.S. territory in state-edited textbooks for students. In practice, the U.S. imperialists treat South Korea as nothing more than a colony.

This is eloquently proven by the dust-up concerning the dog in the minister's office, a reference to a dog that was sent into South Korean Foreign Minister's office for security reason during U.S. Secretary of State Shultz's visit to South Korea and the outrageous language by Wickham, Walker, and Lilley who insulted the South Korean people by describing them as lemmings, monkeys, and spoiled brats.

To speak of national self-esteem about South Korea where intruders, not the masters, dominate the stage is as absurd as to call a crow a white heron. Even in view of his unpatriotic and traitorous disposition, traitor No Tae-u is not qualified to speak of national self-esteem.

As insisted by the South Korean people, traitor No Tae-u is nothing but a pro-U.S. running dog that lives on the crumbs of U.S. bread as well as a colonial watchdog and servant who stands guard for U.S. interests in South Korea.

No Tae-u's bloody record of treason by itself is enough to make one realize this. During the Kwangju popular uprising in South Korea he carried out a great massacre operation together with traitor Chon Tu-hwan, arguing that U.S. security was endangered.

Last year he obtained permission to take power by earnestly asking his U.S. master Reagan to continue to place South Korea under the military occupation of the U.S. imperialist troops of aggression and under the protection of the nuclear umbrella and by pledging to keep South Korean markets wide open to U.S. goods.

WFTU Denounces 'Team Spirit-88' Exercise

SK140438 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0434 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—The World Federation of Trade Unions published a statement on March 12 denouncing the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique.

The statement noted that the large-scale joint military rehearsal "Team Spirit 88" of the U.S. forces and the South Korean puppet army is increasing the tension on the Korean peninsula.

The fact that the warships and planes involved in the military rehearsal are loaded with nuclear weapons causes particular uneasiness and apprehension, it said, adding: this conflicts with the demand of the Korean people for conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

The statement called on the trade union organizations of all countries to demand an end to the provocative military exercise and the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea.

It concluded that it is important to clear South Korea of the foreign forces and reunify Korea independently and peacefully without any foreign interference.

Paper Accuses U.S. of Interference in Panama

SK140520 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0512 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—The demand of the Panamanian Government and people for the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces from Panama and the complete realization of sovereignty over the canal is just and accords with the trend of the times.

The U.S. imperialists must take their hands off, discarding their sinister intention to keep hold on the Panama Canal forever.

NODONG SINMUN stresses this in a signed commentary today entitled "High-Handed Interference."

The commentary says:

The United States recently passed a resolution on suspending all contracts concluded with Panama through the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, revealed its intention to take a wholesale economic sanction against Panama and plans an armed intervention in Panama.

All this is an unpardonable criminal act and another state terrorism which tramples underfoot the sovereignty and national dignity of Panama.

The U.S. imperialists' interference in Panama is aimed at removing the incumbent government of Panama, putting pro-American reactionaries in power and holding the right to dominate the canal and Canal Zone forever.

The huge aggression forces of U.S. imperialism in the Panama Canal Zone are a tool for intervention and domination to threaten and blackmail Nicaragua and other progressive countries and obliterate the anti-U.S. independent forces in Central America and the root cause of the increasing tension in this region.

The Korean people express full support and solidarity for the struggle of the Panamanian people for a just cause.

The Panama Canal belongs to the Panamanian people and no one has the right to encroach upon their interests.

Kim Il-song Greets Indonesian President

SK121530 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1505 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings today to Suharto on his reelection as president of the Republic of Indonesia.

Expressing the belief that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will grow in scope and develop in the idea of independence and nonalignment, the message wishes the Indonesian president greater success in his responsible work for national prosperity.

Lebanon Supports North-South Proposal

SK121526 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1503 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—Salim al-Huss, acting prime minister of Lebanon, told the DPRK ambassador to Lebanon on March 7 that the proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song for peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification is a very important and wise initiative. He expressed full support to it.

He highly estimated the heroic struggle of the Korean people who are out in the 200-day campaign in hearty response to the teachings given by Comrade Kim Il-song at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and wished them great success in the campaign.

It is not accidental that timed to coincide with traitor No Tae-u's fabrication of his win in the presidential election, the U.S. imperialists have begun to intensify their military buildup and schemes to provoke a nuclear war and subject South Korea to more virulent economic pressure.

Even at this moment, traitor No Tae-u is not only harshly suppressing the patriotic people who have risen up for national independence on left-leaning and pro-communist charges, but he also is actively following the U.S. imperialists' two-Korea policy and their aggressive strategy toward Korea and Asia.

The puppets' active participation in the "Team Spirit" war exercise, a full-scale nuclear strike operation conducted under the command of the U.S. imperialists, and their frantic maneuver to create a favorable environment for fabricating two Koreas by taking advantage of the Olympics are only a few examples. It is nothing less than an intolerable challenge to and mockery of the people's cause of national sovereignty and their anti-U.S. cause of converting the country into an independently-governed one that traitor No Tae-u, who has been reduced to a perpetrator of the U.S. imperialists' colonial policy and a puppet, should babble about national self-esteem.

Lurking behind the billboard of national self-esteem, which No Tae-u began to advertise as soon as he took power, is an insidious political objective. While clamoring about national self-esteem, traitor No Tae-u has uttered not so much as a word about the call for the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist troops of aggression occupying South Korea, along with the nuclear weapons, and the call for cessation of U.S. interference in the internal affairs of South Korea and economic pressure on South Korea. Instead he has babbled about coexistence with alien forces of aggression.

All told, No Tae-u means to placate the people's spirit of anti-U.S. struggle domestically and remove the ignominious name plate of his Korea being a colonial puppet externally by babbling about national self-esteem so that he can make South Korea appear to be a sovereign state.

Saying that the key to achieving national self-esteem lies in realizing reconciliation, No Tae-u is now preaching something like mutual recognition, tolerance, and understanding. By saying so, he forces the people who are against prolonging the military rule to be obedient to his regime.

Simply put, traitor No Tae-u's theory of national self-esteem is brazenly deceptive propaganda designed to achieve security for his power by camouflaging the colonial nature of South Korea after disguising it as a sovereign state and by placating the people's anti-U.S. and anti-puppet struggle.

The craftiness of traitor No Tae-u, who is known in the world as a monster of two faces, has been laid bare once again.

Traitor No Tae-u should clearly realize that his repeated babbling about national self-esteem will not turn South Korea, a U.S. colony, into a sovereign state all of a sudden and elevate the stature of a puppet.

The South Korean youths, students, and people, who have now risen up in a plaza of struggle, are now strongly calling for the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist troops of aggression that sit on South Korea along with their military and nuclear weapons and for discontinuation of the U.S. imperialists' colonial domination and their economic invasion.

This is a complete rebuttal to the presumptuous theory of national self-esteem recited by a colonial puppet.

National self-esteem in South Korea can be achieved only through the people's anti-U.S. and anti-puppet struggle.

Daily Comments on Shultz' Talk on South

SK150503 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0451 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the fact that U.S. Secretary of State Shultz extolled the old and new puppets by telling U.S. House meetings that South Korea has wrought a "miracle" in "transition to democratic government."

The signed commentary says:

The U.S. reactionary rulers are describing with such great enthusiasm the deceptive "transfer of power" in South Korea as a "miracle," because they need the military fascist dictatorial "regime" in South Korea, not a democratic government.

The U.S. imperialists now facing a serious crisis in their colonial rule over South Korea plan to use the treacherous military fascist dictatorial "regime" wearing the veil of "democracy" in their double-dealing tactics to quell the South Korean people's anti-U.S. struggle for independence and anti-fascist struggle for democracy on the one hand and harshly suppress this struggle on the other. That is why Shultz strokes and extolls the traitor No Tae-u.

Shultz cried as if the United States wanted a "stable" situation on the Korean peninsula. this is a shameless hypocrisy.

For peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons must be pulled out of South Korea, first of all.

WPK Greets Democratic Party of Gabon

SK120551 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0543 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on March 11 sent a message of greetings to the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Gabon on the occasion of its 20th founding anniversary.

Over the past 20 years the Democratic Party of Gabon greatly contributed to the Gabonese people's cause of liquidating the aftermath of the colonial rule and building a new society in their country, says the message.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the two parties and two countries will develop better, the message wishes the Democratic Party of Gabon great success in its efforts for the prosperity and progress of the country.

Papers Mark Mauritius Independence Day

SK121030 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1021 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—Papers here today mark the 20th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Mauritius.

NODONG SINMUN says since the independence on March 12, 1968, the Mauritius people have striven to consolidate the national independence, achieve territorial integrity and build a new life.

The author of the article notes:

In particular, the Mauritius people are struggling against the moves of the United States and Britain which occupied Chagos islands including Diego Garcia Islands, part of their territory, and are blocking the uniform development of the country.

For its justness, this struggle enjoys the positive support of the world's peaceloving people.

Pursuing a non-aligned foreign policy, Mauritius develops friendly and cooperative relations with neighbouring countries and makes efforts to convert the Indian Ocean into a peace zone.

The Korean people wish the Mauritius people new success in their endeavours for the building of a new life.

The author of a MINJU CHOSON article says the Korean people extend warm congratulations to the Mauritius people on their independence day and on the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Functions Abroad Mark Kim Chong-il Birthday

SK121033 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1025 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—On the occasion of the birthday of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il film shows were held at the Frankfurt-on-Oder county party school in the German Democratic Republic, at the house of the Prague Construction and Architecture Institute in Czechoslovakia and at the Lansang Hotel in Laos. A photo exhibition was arranged at the Sofia Foreign Trade College in Bulgaria and a meeting and a football game took place at the DPRK Senior Middle School in Havana Province of Cuba.

On display at the photo exhibition hall were a photograph of Comrade Kim Chong-il giving on-the-spot guidance to the construction of Pyongyang and photographs showing the development of Korea.

Korean films "The Dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il Gives On-the-Spot Guidance to Construction of Pyongyang" and "West Sea Barrage on Rough Sea" were screened at film shows.

Officials of party and power bodies and public organisations and people of various strata participated in the functions.

South Korea

Japanese Foreign Minister To Visit 21 March

SK150539 Seoul YONHAP in English
0521 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan will hold a foreign ministers' conference next Monday in Seoul, the Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday.

The ministry said the two countries will discuss an early inauguration of a liaison committee on joint security efforts to prevent terrorist acts from obstructing the Seoul Olympic games and establishment of the Wisemen's Council for the 21st Century.

In the meeting, South Korean foreign minister Choi Kwang-su and his Japanese counterpart Sosuke Uno will also discuss Japan's cooperation in South Korea's efforts to substantially improve its relations with the Soviet Union, China, and other communist-bloc nations.

The two foreign ministers will discuss an early meeting of the two countries' cabinet ministers, which will be the 15th such gathering of ministers, but will mark the first under the new leadership of the two countries—President No Tae-u of South Korea and Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita of Japan.

No and Takeshita met on Feb. 25, No's inauguration day, for the first summit talks between the two.

The ministry said other agenda items awaiting the two foreign ministers will include details on revitalizing the projected exchanges of youths, students and teachers.

The chronic trade imbalance which favors Japan and improvements in the legal status of Korean residents in Japan are also agenda items.

The two foreign ministers are also expected to discuss the future of Min Hong-ku, a former North Korean army sergeant, who fled from North Korea aboard a Japanese freighter in 1983 seeking political asylum in Japan.

Subsequently, North Korea held crew members of the Japanese freighter in captivity when the ship called at a North Korean port on its next voyage.

Min was tried as a stowaway by a Japanese court and was released from prison last year on parole.

The ministry said Japanese Foreign Minister Uno will fly into Seoul on Sunday to attend the conference on the following day. After the meeting, Uno will pay courtesy calls on President No and Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae.

The Japanese foreign minister will return to Tokyo on Monday after an inspection tour of Olympic facilities, the ministry said.

No Says Unification Important After Olympics

SK150245 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Mar 88 pp 2, 5

[Text] President No Tae-u said yesterday the government has to develop a more flexible and positive policy for national unification.

National unification will become one of the most important pending issues after the Seoul Olympics this year, No said after receiving a report from Minister of National Unification Yi Hong-ku at Chongwadae.

"With the opening of an era of national self-respect, the people's desire for peaceful unification is greater than ever before," he said.

A change should be made in the perception that national unification is an impossible task or a problem that can only be solved in the distant future, he said.

"We should convince ourselves that national unification is attainable in our time," No said.

Relations between the south and the north should also change, he said, adding that the government should accommodate these changes.

President No discussed the improvement of relations with China and other Communist nations and its implication for Korea's national unification, an aide to No said.

In the afternoon, President No received a briefing from Education Minister Kim Yong-sik on the ministry's major policy programs for this year.

No directed Kim to expand overseas training programs for school teachers and increase the number of beneficiaries by about 3,000 from the present 700.

He also called for the expansion of tuition loans for university students.

The President reiterated his call for the fostering of an autonomous atmosphere in schools and other education institutions.

"Universities must be given leeway in such matters as the selection of faculty members and the administration of entrance exams," he said.

No gave instructions that heads of local governments render active assistance in securing construction sites for new schools and renovating facilities of the existing ones.

He asked Kim to exert efforts to improve the quality of infant education, and to alleviate the situation of overcrowded classrooms.

The President stressed that local governments should refrain from mobilizing students for ceremonies and various other functions.

Materials on North To Be Publicized

SK150253 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Mar 88 p 5

[Text] The government will endeavor to lay the foundation for national consensus on the unification of the Korean peninsula, said Minister of National Unification Yi Hong-ku yesterday.

Briefing President No Tae-u on his ministry's major policy programs at Chongwadae, Yi said that efforts will be made to help the "ordinary, middleclass people lead national unification, based on nationalism."

To this end, he said that more materials on north Korea will be made public.

In addition, the government will hold a regular briefing session for the press and will closely cooperate with religious and social organizations and institutes at universities and newspaper companies, he said.

Apart from them, he said the government will explain to opposition political parties inter-Korea relations and hear their opinions.

Referring to the deadlocked inter-Korea dialogue, the minister said that inter-Korea talks should be promoted "on a new phase in view of international developments following the Seoul Olympics and aspirations of the people and the outside world."

"Thorough preparations will be made to meet such a situation," said Yi, former Seoul National University professor.

He said the people are required to have optimistic views on the unification of the peninsula rather than pessimistic ones.

The government will help the people to have optimistic views on national unification through programs at schools and public organizations and others, he said.

Boxing Team Receives Soviet Invitation

SK150313 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Mar 88 p 12

[Text] A top Soviet official, here for the Seoul Cup International Boxing Tournament, said Sunday he would extend an invitation to the Korean fighters for the first time to participate in an international tournament in June in Leningred.

Soviet team leader Artem Ravrov said he would invite Korean boxers to the Leningrad Championship in return for Korea's invitation to his fighters to the Seoul Cup which opened yesterday at Chamsil Students Gymnasium.

The one-week Seoul Cup, a fullfledged rehearsal for the Summer Olympic Games, drew 140 top pugilists from 19 nations, including the Soviet Union, East Germany and the United States, all world boxing powers. Host Korea fields 46 fighters in 12 different weight classes.

Leading the 12-member Soviet squad, Ravrov, the head coach of the Soviet boxing squad in his country, said he has also invited such powers as East Germany, the United States and Bulgaria to the Leningrad Tournament.

The 50-year-old leader said the Leningrad Championships will serve as the Soviet National Boxing Trials for the Seoul Olympics.

Ravrov was answering questions from pressmen at Kyongnam Tourist Hotel with accompanying Yuriy Tshai, a Korean-Russinan, the Soviet team's coach.

He said the came here to learn about other competitors' medal strategy in the Seoul Olympics. He already visited here for the 1985 World Cup Amateur Boxing Championship. "I think half of the 12 fighters will probably take part in the Summer Olympic Games. They are excellent both in skills and physical stamina," he said. "We expect gold medal from lightweight Mekhak Kazariann and bantamweight Alexander Cebziak."

China Can Apply for Patent Protection

SK120045 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Mar 88 p 6

[Text] A direct application by a Chinese national for the protection of patents and trademarks in Korea would be treated on equal footing with an application made by a Korean national, sources at the Office of Patents Administration said yesterday.

The Patents Administration's equal treatment of possible Chinese applications for the protection of their industrial property will be in accordance with the Paris Convention. The international convention stipulates that signatories are to guarantee mutual protection of foreign industrial property on a reciprocal basis. Seoul has no diplomatic relations with Beijing, but the two countries are among the 97 signatories of the 105-year-old Paris Convention.

The Patents Administration's stance is in response to the request made by a Hong Kong-based organization in charge of patent affairs in mainland China about whether a direct patent application by Chinese nationals would be registered with the Korean Office of Patents Administration and whether it would be officially accepted.

A Korean patent attorney's office in Seoul received the request in February from the office of China's patent agent in Hong Kong, according to the sources. China's patent agent has a branch office in Beijing and a liaison office in Shanghai.

Chinese authorities, however, have not yet revealed their official position on three patent applications field by Koreans.

A Korean patent attorney, who asked not to be identified, says that the Korean Office of Patents Administration registered an application field in January 1986 by a Chinese national residing in Hong Kong.

Korea has so far accepted a total of 188 patent applications made by nine Communist-bloc nations including Yugoslavia, Hungary and Poland, according to the sources.

The indirect trade volume between Korea and China was estimated at some $1.5 billion in 1986 and is expected to expand sharply in the years ahead.

Patent Office Seeks East Europe Exchanges

SK120813 Seoul YONHAP in English 0756 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 12 (YONHAP)—South Korea will seek exchanges with East European countries on industrial property rights in preparation for possible direct trade with them, the Patents Administration said Saturday.

The Patents Administration plans to encourage private businesses to step up exchanges with East-bloc communist nations on industrial property rights, administration officials said.

South Korea has no diplomatic relations with communist countries, but many private businesses are trying to develop trade and other economic ties with them. The firms now conduct indirect trade through Hong Kong and other third nations.

The officials said the Patents Administration is studying a plan to send some specialists to a training program on patent information to be held in Moscow from June 10-July 5, co-sponsored by the world intellectual property rights organization and the Soviet Union.

The administration is also considering dispatching government officials and private representatives to a symposium on invention promotion, slated for October in Beijing, they added.

President No Calls for Import Liberalization
SK150924 Seoul YONHAP in English
0803 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 15 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u Tuesday called for more efficient management of the nation's increasing current account surplus.

Commenting on the Finance Ministry's policy programs for this year, No pointed to the need for liberalizing imports and foreign exchange control.

South Korea's current account surplus stood at 9.78 billion U.S. dollars last year, recording an impressive 111.7 percent rise from the 4.6 billion-dollar surplus of a year ago when the country's current account moved into the black for the first time in Korean history.

The continued drastic rise of the current account surplus, propelled by trade surpluses, has resulted in mounting pressure by the industrialized nations calling for South Korea's domestic markets to open wider.

No also instructed the Finance Ministry officials to work out policy measures to promote overseas investments while reducing the country's foreign debts to the level of 20 to 25 percent of the gross national product (GNP).

No told the officials to provide compensation measures for those who might be adversely affected by the import liberalization.

He also instructed the Finance Ministry to reform the taxational system to bring about a more balanced distribution of income.

Tariffs To Be Lowered, Won To Be Revalued
SK150200 Seoul YONHAP in English
0145 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 15 (YONHAP)—Determined to reduce its increasing current account surplus by expanding imports, South Korea will drastically lower its tariff rates and revalue its currency to match the real value.

In an administration policy briefing session for President No Tae-u on Tuesday, Finance Minister Sakong Il said that his ministry will conduct a sweeping reform of its export and import management system, which will allow expanded imports of necessities whose domestic prices are higher than international prices.

The ministry will, however, extend tax benefits and financial support to industries vulnerable to the import expansion while working toward improvements in the economic structure.

Sakong said the ministry's policy priority this year will be on readjusting the nation's economic structure, resolving pending trade issues with the United States, and achieving stable growth of the stock market in order to open it to foreign investors.

Meanwhile, the ministry will set up a locally incorporated firm in the United States to facilitate customs clearing of Korean export goods.

In addition, the ministry will increase its capital contributions to the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank while participating more actively in support of developing countries by donating 90,000 U.S. dollars to the International Monetary Fund.

Plan To Remove Foreign Investment Restrictions
SK150803 Seoul YONHAP in English
0750 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 15 (YONHAP)—South Korean firms' combined overseas investments totaled 1,005 billion [as received] U.S. dollars as of the end of February this year, the Finance Ministry reported Tuesday.

The Korean companies' overseas investments in 1987 and 1986 amounted to 397 million dollars and 157 million dollars, respectively, up from 32 million dollars in 1985, reflecting strengthened trade pressures by major trading partners.

A ministry official attributed the sharp rise in the amount of overseas investments to the nation's accumulated trade surplus and the government's policies intended to ease restrictions on investments in foreign countries.

The official said that such nations as Canada, Belgium and Colombia are striving to induce Korean firms' investments, and forecast that the Korean companies' combined overseas investments would increase to 1.5 billion dollars at the end of this year.

The South Korean Government plans to remove all restrictions on Korean firms' overseas investments after 1990, the official added.

Communist Countries Language Study Scholarships
SK150231 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] Government scholarships will be granted for study of the languages of Communist countries, starting this year.

Briefing President No Tae-u on the Education Ministry's major plans for this year, education Minister Kim Yong-sik yesterday said that his ministry would give scholarships to eight people majoring in the Chinese, Russian and Hungarian languages.

As the Communist nations have no direct diplomatic relations with Korea, the studies will be made in neighboring countries.

For example, a student of Chinese will enroll at a laguage school in Hongkong or Taiwan Especially for Chinese, the ministry will encourage students to choose different Chinese dialects other than Mandarin because many dialects are used across mainland China.

Emphasis is primarily on the language but will be gradually moved to a broader area of study.

Scholarships will be made on a one-year-basis but are renewable according to the academic performance of the students.

Also beginning this summer, more high school graduates will be able to go abroad for study if they pass state-run foreign language tests. Thus far, only those within the top 10 percent of their high school class have been eligible to take the qualification language test."

The ministry said that it is considering expanding the criteria of students who are not required to pass language test for study abroad ip line with President No instruction to help as many youths go abroad as possible so that they can make an accurate assessment of their fatherland.

The ministry is working on plan to enable bachelor's degree holders in the linguistics-related lines to skip the language test for study abroad.

Up to now, only a full-time lecturer or higher post holders in a university has been exempt from the mandatorty test.

On the matter of the high school entrance system, the current system of assigning students to schools in their school district irrespective of their choice can be changed if the related board of education decides so. However, the system will continue to be in force in five major cities such as Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Kwangju and Inchon, according to the minister.

Timing for Eased Travel Restrictions Debated
SK130020 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Mar 88 p 2

[By staff reporter Kang Song-chol]

[Text] Government officials working on plans to liberalize overseas travel are facing a difficult question of choosing between a sweeping change and a phased one.

The question is to be settled at an interministrial meeting this week.

The Foreign Ministry is favoring a gradual abolishment of restrictions, particularly the age limit. Currently, tourist passport are issued only to those aged 40 or above.

An original ministry plan envisions lowering the age to 35 this year and to 30 next, and lifting the restriction altogether in 1990.

The Education Ministry and security-related government organizations also prefer gradual liberalization.

On the other hand, the Finance and other economic ministries are calling for an across-the-board change, not a phased one.

The discussion became more lively after President No Tae-u gave instructions last week that the nation's youths be given more chances to learn from travel abroad.

The major bone of contention here is over whether to place emphasis on "national harmony" or the people's bzsic right to travel.

Those fravoring a gradual change argue that full-scale liberalization would not be conducive to fostering a mood of national reconciliation.

They insist that an all-out liberalization at this time would only produce a "sense of discontentment" among those who cannot afford to enjoy sightseeing tours overseas.

Security officials even point to the "special" circumstances facing the nation. As they have always been, they are worried about the ever existing danger of north Korean maneuvers against south Korean travelers abroad.

Those preferring a full-scale liberalization this year contend that effecting a sweeping change would be in line with the trend of "liberalization" of the Sixth Republic.

The nation has grown enough, especially economically, to allow the people to freely travel abroad, they say.

The nation is no longer suffering from a severe shortage of foreign currency, which was one of the chief reasons for the government to curb "unnecessary overseas travel" they say.

Economic officials maintain that the foreign travel issue should be tackled as part of overall economic policies at a time when the nation is recording a massive trade surplus.

Ill effects from the liberalization, if any, will be minimal, they say, pointing to the examples of the sweeping reforms six years ago such as the lifting of night curfew and the abandonment of school uniforms for middle and high school students.

They also compare the situation with that of other newly industrialized countries like Taiwan, which has no restrictions on overseas travel except for those who have not fulfilled military service.

Officials hope to resolve these differences at a meeting of ministries concerned, slated for Wednesday.

There is a possibility that a compromise will be reached: lower the age to 35 or 30 this year and remove the restrictions altogether next.

The government lowered the eligible age for overseas sightseeing tours from 50 to 45 last September, and to 40 Jan. 1 this year.

RDP Rejects Latest Kim Tae-chung Offer

SK150209 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Kim Tae-chung yesterday suggested that he will relinquish the presidency of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] if the two major opposition parties agree to nominate joint parliamentary candidates.

Kim Yong-sam, de facto leader of the Reunification Democratic Party, however, immediately rejected the proposal, saying that the PPD is "again attempting to deceive the people."

Kim Yong-sam also dismissed as unfeasible Kim Tae-chung's proposal that each of them designate a representative who will "co-lead" a unified party.

The PPD president sent his deputy Yi Chung-chae yesterday to the house of Kim Yong-sam in Sangdo-dong to present the proposals only to face instant rejection.

Through Yi, Kim Tae-chung also proposed that he and Kim Yong-sam take control of a proposed RDP-PPD joint campaign center for the general elections to assist opposition National Assembly hopefuls.

Yi Chung-chae quoted Kim Yong-sam as saying that time is running out and that the joint nominations by the two parties is more difficult to achieve than the merger itself.

Kim Yong-sam said the joint nomination proposal, which Kim Tae-chung had made in a press conference last Wednesday, had already been turned down by the RDP.

"Whether Kim Tae-chung resigns from the RDP presidency or not is a matter to be decided by the PPD itself," Kim Yong-sam said.

"The RDP has no reason to request the resignation of Kim Tae-chung from the PPD presidency just to field joint candidates between the two parties," Kim said.

Kim recalled that the RDP has demanded the retirement of Kim Tae-chung from an active opposition leadership to ensure the grand opposition merger, not to achieve joint nomination.

Kim also said he had no intention of meeting Kim Tae-chung to discuss merger plan, which he said had already collapsed.

Sunday night, Kim Tae-chung held a meeting with his top deputies at his home to "devise plans for mutual survival" of the divided opposition camp in the general elections.

The meeting was said to have been arranged at the request of parliamentary candidates seeking to run in the metropolitan electoral districts on the PPD ticket.

They were said to have "pressured" Kim Tae-chung into relinquishing the PPD presidency to materialize the joint nomination between the RDP and the PPD."

Kim Tae-chung also accepted their proposal that Kim adopts the joint leadership under which a new unified party will be headed by the two representatives to be designated by the two Kims.

Kim Tae-chung had said in the last press conference that he and Kim Yong-sam should co-lead the new unified party.

Aides to Kim Yong-sam said that he regards the PPD overture as an attempt to divert the mounting public criticism on Kim Tae-chung and the PPD fmr blocking the opposition merger.

It was learned that RDP and PPD lawmaker aspirants seeking to run in Seoul constituencies have held a series of meetings over the weekend.

Parties Busy With 'Must Win' Strategies

SK150115 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Mar 88 pp 2, 5

["News Analysis" column: "Parties All Out To Map Election Strategies"]

[Text] Political parties are bracing for the forthcoming general election, slated in late April, amid widespread speculation that it will see the fiercest competition in parliamentary history, largely because of restoration of a single-member constituency system dropped 16 years ago. They are busy selecting candidates for the showdown and establishing "must-win" strategies. Following is a brief sketch of the parties' preelection activities:

DJP [subhead]

The ruling Democratic Justice Party has all but finished selecting the party's candidates to run in the 224 constituencies for the coming parliamentary election.

The DJP Plans to to announce the names of the successful candidates tomorrow or Thursday, at the latest, after receiving approval from party president No Tae-u.

For this, the party has completed last-minute contacts, over the weekend, with the people who will be newly accepted to compete as DJP runners in the election.

In Seoul alone, the ruling party will induce some 20 new faces.

The "inducement" has become inevitable because the single constituency system increased the number of electoral districts to 42, from the present 14.

Besides, among the incumbent lawmakers from the Seoul constituencies, Yun Kil-chung, Hong Song-u, Kwon Yong-wu expressed their intention to leave politics.

In a related move, the ruling party will nominate Kim Yong-ku, Choe Myong-hon, Kim Chung-wi, Yang Kyong-cha and Chong Chang-hwa, all elected from the national constituencies, to run in Seoul districts.

In addition, former cabinet ministers Choe Tong-kyu, Chon Myong-kui, and ex-Assemblyman of the defunct Democratic Republican Party O Yu-pang, lawyer Cho Yong-il, actor Sin Yong-kyun are certain to be nominated to run in the capital city.

Meantime, the DJP is recommending young people, particularly college professors or academicians, to compete in Seoul and other urban areas.

Yi Kang-hyok of Hanguk University of Foreign Studies, Sin Kil-su of Myongji University, Yu Chong-yul of Kyonghui University will likely be chosen to be candidates in Seoul.

Also, the ruling party is considering transferring a few prominent figures of the rural constituencies to run in Seoul.

Among them are Yi Chong-yul of Namwon, Chollnam-do, and Kim Chae-sun of Kangwon-do who was floor leader of the defunct Democratic Republican Party.

Meanwhile, DJP chairman Chae Mun-sik who is also chairman of the party candidates screening panel reconfirmed that about 20 or so incumbent lawmakers won't be renominated.

The list of the unsuccessful incumbents will include former party officials and members of the Central Executive Council, the DJP's highest decision-making organ.

RDP [subhead]

Because of the failure to merge with the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], the Reunification Democratic Party ahs set as its primary goal defeating the PPD rather than challenging the ruling Democratic Justice Party.

The RDP rightly sees that whether it remains the No. 1 opposition party or not depends on its performance in the metropolitan area.

To create an RDP boom in the capital area where 42 seats are at stake, the party is maneuvering to field new figures of good reputation. For this former RDP president Kim Yong-sam is reportedly contacting a wide range of aspirants for parliamentary seats.

On Kim's list of fresh figures are Cho Chong-ku, Yi Hyon-pae and Yi Kang-chol, all leaders of the yet-to-be-formed Hangyore Democratic Party.

Zlso targeted are lawyers No Mu-hyon, Kang Sin-ok and Hwang San-song. A leading "human rights lawyer," Kang was recently acquitted of court defaming charges brought 14 years ago. Hwang is one of the most celebrated female lawyers of the nation.

The party is also seeking to attract such independent lawmakers as Pak Chan-chong, Yi Chol, Ho Kyong-ku, Chang Ki-uk and Chough Sun-hyong.

These newcomers are likely to be all fielded in Seoul to fill up the newly created districts. The party pins much hope on them because it must win an overwhelming victory over the PPD in Seoul to consolidate its position as the main opposition party.

Public attention seems to be cast on whether Kim Yong-sam and acting president Kim Myong-yun will run for a seat or not.

Some RDP officials strongly demand that former president Kim Yong-sam run and help stir up an RDP boom, while others remind that he has pledged to remain as an ordinary party member without any office.

Acting president Kim Myong-hun has shown a lukewarm response to the idea of seeking an elected seat but if he does run for one, Kim Yong-sam would be nominated for a set through national representation and stuvp nationwide for RDP candidates.

While the party places primary importance on the Seoul area, it is at the same time endeavoring to retain an absolute superiority in Pusan, the nation's second largest city with 15 seats at stake.

It plans to field incumbent lawmakers in 11 of the total 15 districts and fill up the other four with human rights activists, thus scoring an absolute victory over the ruling Democratic Justice Party.

All in all, the party aims to garner 35 to 40 seats from Seoul and Pusan alone, which is more than half of the total seats it is determined to win.

When it successfully attracts targeted figures, it will have to adjust allocation of nominees because some of them wish to run in districts eyed by incumbent lawmakers.

The Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] hopes to become the first opposition party, replacing the RDP.

But some party sources predicted the PPD would garner 60 to 70 seats in the coming parliamentary elections.

The party expects to obtain lome 80 percent of 37 seats in Cholla province and about 15 seats in Seoul with 42 constituencies.

Since last week, party president Kim Tae-chung's house has been crowded with would-be candidates, but party sources said many of the PPD candidates are already decided.

In Seoul, they are Reps. Yi Chung-chae (Socho-gu), No Song-hwan (Mapo-gu A), Pak Sil (Tongjak-gu B), Yi Kil-pom (Yongsan-gu), Choe Hun (Tongdaemun-gu A), Song Hyong-sop (Kuro-gu A) Yim Chun-won (Sodaemun-gu B) and Chang Chung-chun (Kangdong-gu B).

Those who will run in Seoul on the PPD ticket also include Chong Tae-chol (Chung-gu), Cho Se-hyong (Songdong-gu B), Cho Yon-hyong (Songpuk-gu A), Han Kwang-ok (Kwanak-gu A), Kim Tock-kyu (Tongdaemun-gu A or B), and Kim Su-il (Yongdungpo-gu B).

Some former dissident figures who recently joined the PPD have also obtained the PPD ticket to run in Seoul. They include the Rev. Mun Tong-hwan (Tobong-gu A), lawyer Yi Sang-su (Chungyang-gu A), Kang Kom-sik (Songdong-gu A or B), and Yi Hae-chan (Kwapak-gu B).

In Kyonggi-do, Rep. An Tong-son is to run in Puchon city, Yi Sok-yong in Anyang city, Yi Chan-ku in Songnam city and O Hong-sok in Kimpo-kanghwa counties.

In Kwangju City, Rep. Sin Ki-ha (Dong-gu), Pak Chong-tae (So-gu B), and Chong Wung (Buk-gu) are to run on the PPD ticket.

In Chollanam-do areas, only several have been given the PPD ticket. They include Rep.s Ho Kyong-man (Sunchon City), Ko Chae-chong (Tamyang-Changsong), Yu Chun-sang (Posong), Kim Pong-ho (Namhae-chindo), and Kwon No-kap, Kim Tae-chung's chief secretary (Mokpo city).

In Chonju City in Chollapuk-do, Son Chu-hang and Yu Hun-kun are prepared to run, while Rep. Choe Nak-do (Kimche), Kim Chun-pae (Puan) and Kim Won-ki (Chongju City) are nominated as PPD candidates. NDRP [subhead]

The New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP] is making a desperate effort to become a floor negotiation body which requires a minimum of 20 parliamentary seats.

NDRP sources said the party "must" get at least 15 seats "to survive."

In this connection, party president Kim Chong-pil has decided to run in his hometown of Puyo in Chungchongnam-do.

The NDRP plans to focus on Chongchongnam-do, Seoul and Kyonggi-do as in other regions it cannot expect to garner more than a few seats.

Party secretary general Kim yong-chae, spokesman Cho Yong-chik, former Ambassador to the united Nations Han Pyong-ki, and Yi Ha-u, former secretary general of the SLOOC [Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee], are to run in Sjkeoul on the NDRP ticket.

Those given the party ticket include Choe Kwak-kyu, former Minister of Trade and Industry (Kangnung in Kangwon-do), former lawmaker Yim Tok-kyu (Nonsan in Chungchongnam-do), Kim Hong-man (Taejon), Kim Yong-hwan (Taechon-Poryong) and Yun Chae-ki (Kongju).

DJP 'Faces Dilemma' in Selecting Candidates

SK120101 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Mar 88 p 2

[By staff reporter Yun Kuk-han]

[Text] Popular attention is being paid to the candidate screening panel of the ruling Democratic Justice Party which began its activities Thursday.

With the general election to select the 224 Assemblymen for the 13th term parliament just about a month and a half away, politics are on everyone's lips these days.

The 10-member committee to nominate the DJP candidates to run in the elections, headed by chairman Chae Mun-sik, went into secret consultations for the "difficult and agonizing" task of personnel selection.

A truck-load of materials which the ruling party has prepared through on-the-spot probation on the candidates were presented to the members.

The panel members mostly comprise the so-called powerful figures of the party, former secretaries general Yi Chun-ku, Yi Han-tong, Chong Sun-tok, and incumbent secretary general Lim Myong-poxn as well as party chairman Chae.

Representing each provincial DJP chapter, the members will pick the 224 people to run in the direct elections plus some 40 others to fill up national constituencies.

Right before embarking on the selection business, the 10 members were instructed on the selection guidelines by party president No Tae-u who emphasized "fresh figures" to help boost the already favorable image of the just-inaugurated Sixth Republic.

In fact, one of the major concerns of the committee is how it can infuse fresh perspectives into the list of successful candidates.

The issue becomes even more difficult and delicate when it is considered that the candidates are related to the old Fifth Republic or ex-President Chon Tu-hwan whose names are well-known, thus lacking fresh images.

Besides, the committee members feel "perplexed" that they have to leave the incumbent lawmakers out of nomination.

Party secretary general Sim already mentioned that "it will be most painful to do that."

Approximately 10 to 20 incumbent lawmakers are said to be excluded from the party's nomination.

A committee member said, "Those who are involved in any financial or other scandal, who have bad reputations, and who are so pompously authoritarian will not be nominated."

Meanwhile, as a result of an increase in the number of electoral districts from the present 92 to 224, the DJP suffers from a lack of candidates to run in urban constituencies.

Party officials have contacted some prominent figures to run on a DJP ticket in Seoul and other big cities, but they declined the DJP offer, citing risks.

Seoul, Pusan and other big cities have traditionally been inclined to the opposition.

Among the people the DJP has met are former Prime Minister No Sin-yong, ex-Seoul city mayor Yom Po-hyon and Kim Chae-sun, floor leader of the defunct Democratic Republican Party.

In this regard, the ruling party plans to have a couple of young persons who are in their late 30s or early 40s compete in the capital city.

They may include those who were formerly anti-government student activists.

Another matter of interest is how many women will be nominated. Party president No said that the door should be wider opened for women to more effectively speak for the female population.

The ruling DJP is expected to choose more women runners than before, considering women's increasing socizl activities.

Presently, the DJP has six women lawmakers, among them Kim Chong-nye of Seoul is the only one elected by direct voting. The other five were chosen from national constituencies.

In the meantime, not a few electoral districts show severe competition between the incumbent district chairman and the challengers.

In the districts, lawmakers elected from national constituencies and former high-ranking government officials are seriously challenging the present chairmen for nominations.

In Songbuk, Seoul, incumbent chairman Rep. Kim Chong-nye is vying for a candidacy with former Energy and Resources Minister Choe Tong-kyu.

In Tanyang, Chungchongbuk-do, former Health and Social Affairs Minister Yi Hae-won and Rep. Cho Chong-ho are in a fierce fight.

Yi was elected in the area three times during the 8th-11th parliaments while Cho represented the area during the 4th-5th Assembly.

Perhaps Kongju, Chungchongnam-do will be the hottest competition district between former party secretary general Chong Sok-mo and Yi Sang-chae, the party's first deputy secretary general who played "important" roles to elect President No in the last election.

The party will give a natiopal representation seat to a "loser", it is said.

What draws particular concern is the duel between Rep. Choe Chang-kyu and former party vice secretary general Yun Sok-sun in Chongyang-Hongsong, Chungchongnam-do.

The two are said to be engaged in a "dirty" fight of namecalling and blackmailing each other, thus enhancing the chances for a third person to take advantage.

In Pohang, Kyongsangbuk-do, two former chief presidential secretaries for political affairs, Ho Hwa-pyong and Yi Chin-u, are competiting for the ruling party nomination.

The two former key presidential aides are alumni of a high school in the region.

Many Will Not Be Renominated

SK122333 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] At least one-fifth of the ruling party's incumbent lawmakers will not be renominated in the general elections.

Their places will be taken by new faces to match the fresh, clean image of the new government, Democratic Justice Party Chairman Chae Mun-sik yesterday said.

They will include young college professors, dissidents, human rights lawyers and entrepreneurs, all in their 30s and 40s, he said.

Many of the new recruits will be fielded in the metropolitan zone, where the fiercest battle of the 13th national Assembly election is expected.

The announcement marks a reversal of the DJP's original policy of putting up big-name politicians, former high government officials and famous entertainers in the city.

The elections to pick 299 legislators for the 13th parliament are expected to be held April 26, two days ahead of the April 28 deadline.

The election date was tentatively agreed on at a joint meeting of high DJP officials and government officials yesterday morning.

Among those on hand were Chae, Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae, and Presidential Secretary-General Hong Song-chol.

They reportedly discussed a wide range of issues related to the general elections.

The ruling party plans to announce most of its candidates for the elections as early as Tuesday, Chae said.

The selection work, being conducted by a 10-member screening committee led by Chae, began at a secret place last Thursday.

The DJP's goal is to win at least 55 percent of the 299 legislative seats at stake to retain its parliamentary majority, Chae said.

However, many DJP officials have a rosier outlook, predicting capture of more than two-thirds of the seats, largely because of the opposition's disarray.

Chae said that "image" is the most important factor in selecting party nominees.

Any hint of scandal or social controversy will eliminate candidates, he said.

The screening members are closely examining candidates personal records, Chae said.

They are also studying classified information about the applicants provided by police and intelligence agencies, he said.

President No Tae-u is known to be closely involved in the screening process.

Secretary-General Sim Myong-po regularly visits No at Chongwadae to discuss the selection as a representative of the screening committee, Chae said.

Thursday, the screening members called at Chongwadae and received six guidelines for selection.

Given that the DJP is expected to easily win more than half of the seats, political observers said, it is guaranteed at least 38 of the 75 seats alloted by national representation system.

The party plans to announce candidates for national representative seats this weekend.

Promising candidates include Chae, the Prime Minister's chief secretary, Yi Chin, and the director of the DJP's planning and coordination office, Choe Chang-yun.

Also tapped are President of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee Pak Se-chik, former Defense Minister Chong Ho-yong, second DJP Deputy Secretary-General Cho Kyong-mok.

Officials Told To Remain Neutral in Elections

SK120111 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] Home Minister Yi Sang-hui urged civil servants to remain neutral in the coming parliamentary elections so that the vote will be conducted in a free and fair manner.

In a special directive, Yi said he will not tolerate any "irregularities or errors" committed by government officials in connection with the National Assembly elections. The vote is expected to be held in late April.

Yi particularly told civil servants not to make remarks supporting certain candidates in public events.

"Civil servants' meddling in the elections will be dealt with harshly," he said.

No Tae-u Bans Student Mobilization for Events

SK150201 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday banned the mobilization of students for various events sponsored by administrative organs, while calling for the elimination of authoritarian colors in educational functions.

No also directed the Education Ministry to leave academic affairs of state-run universities and colleges in the hands of their respective presidents or deans.

While being briefed on this year's educational policies from Education Minister Kim Yong-sik, No particularly instructed the ministry not to interfere in the personnel management involving faculty members at state-run schools.

President No, urging greater autonomy in the operation of universities, stressed that putting an end to uniformity in the educational methoh is vital for the development of education.

However, President No cautioned that the liberalization of academic operations must not give rise to irregularities and malpractices, as seen in some private schools in the past.

The President asked the ministry to study ways of preventing the occurrence of various wrongdoings in the recruitment of freshmen at universities. The ministry was also instructed to sharply increase loans to college students for tuition from the current 120,000 million won to 200,000 million beginning next year.

President No told the ministry to work out a comprehensive scheme designed to further develop the basic science to the level of advanced countries.

He then stressed that the purchase of land required for the construction of schools and expansion of educational facilities should be entirely supervised by the relevant local administrations.

At present, these matters are under the jurisdiction of the educational boards.

Earlier in the morning, No received a briefing on the unification policy, in which he urged a more flexible and positive posture in working out unification policies to reflect changing circumstances.

President No told Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku that "the nature of relations" between South and North Korea should be changed in accordance with the change of the times.

"In the new era of national pride, the people's desire and expectation for a peaceful reunification of the country is stronger than at any time before," No said.

No pointed out that unification will become "an immediate task" when the Olympics are successfully staged because of the impact of the international event on the internal and external situation.

Therefore, now is the time for the people of the nation to change their concept of unification as an impossible or a remote affair, "The people should take more positive and progressive view about the possibility of achieving peaceful unification in the near future," presidential spokesman Yi Su-chung quoted the President as saying.

Presidential spokesman Yi said that President No and Unification Minister Yi had an extensive debate on unification, especially on fostering an international climate conducive to peaceful unification.

Ways to further strengthen Seoul's "Nordpolitik" with Soviet Union and China were also discussed.

No and Yi discussed ways to nurture concepts by those specialized in tge unification wssue besides those who have been engaged in the dialogues between South and North Korea for the past several years.

Burma

Student Unrest Brought Under Control

BK151445 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Because some students from the Rangoon Institute of Technology [RIT] continued to disturb the local law and order situation following fights between local people and students on the evenings of 12 and 13 March in West Gyogon Ward in Insein Township, responsible authorities from the Armed Forces and the People's Police Force entered the RIT campus this afternoon and brought the situation under control after discussions with the students.

Some houses and a ward cooperative were burned down following the fights between the local people and students in the ward. Some concerned people in the ward had moved the women and children to other wards following reports that some students had formed a suicide squad and that the ward would be burned down. Moreover, some students on the RIT campus rioted and destroyed office and school equipment. When they started to threaten the rector of the institute and hostel authorities, responsible authorities from the Armed Forces and the People's Police Force coordinated action, entered the RIT campus at 1515 today, and took control of the situation after they had explained their action.

During the discussions between the students and responsible authorities from the Armed Forces, the People's Police Force, and the RIT, it was explained that those wanting to pursue their studies peacefully would be allowed to do so and that the RIT would continue meet its responsibilities until the holidays. Those who are worried that their parents may be concerned about them would be allowed to go to their hometowns if they so desire. However, necessary action will be taken against those students responsible for unrest and disturbing the law and order situation in accordance with the regulations.

Students who were guaranteed continued peaceful pursuit of their studies by the RIT rector and lecturers were taken back to their hostels by authorities concerned.

It was learned that authorities concerned will take necessary action against students who rioted and disturbed local peace and the law and order situation in accordance with the regulations.

1 Student Killed, 13 Injured

BK150240 Hong Kong AFP in English 1452 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Rangoon, March 14 (AFP)-A Burmese student was killed and 13 people were injured during 30 hours of unrest in a northern suburb of the Burmese capital, Rangoon radio reported Monday. [passage omitted]

The Rangoon Institute of Technology was the scene of student unrest in September last year, following the demonetization of three high-value notes while the students were taking their final examinations, causing the authorities to close down schools all over the country.

The report on the riots coincided with the appointment of rector of the Mandalay University U Kyaw Sein as minister of education, replacing U Kyaw Nyein who resigned his post in January.

Mr U Kyaw Sein was voted in by the 481-member People's Assembly which came into session Monday, with Burmese President U San Yu attending.

The resignation of Transport Minister U Saw Pru was also announced at the meeting. He was replaced by Mr U Sein Ya, a former transport deputy minister and until now a member of the Council of Inspectors. No reason was given for the changes.

New Ministers Elected at Assembly Session

BK141436 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The sixth meeting of the Fourth People's Assembly of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma opened in the Conference Hall of the People's Assembly at 1000 today. Present were 481 People's Assembly representatives headed by U San Yu, president and chairman of the State Council. [passage omitted]

As the meeting began, the presiding chairman announced that of the 482 eligible representatives 481 were present, constituting 99.79 percent attendance. He declared the validity of the meeting and announced it open. [passage omitted]

Next, Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha presented the report of the Council of Ministers. The chairman fixed 15 March as the date for the representatives to discuss the report. The meeting was then recessed.

When the meeting resumed in the afternoon, U Sein Lwin, secretary of the State Council, reported the matter concerning Burma joining the International Maritime Commission. The chairman later fixed 15 March as the date for the Assembly to discuss the matter.

Later, representatives cast secret ballots to elect two new members of the Council of Ministers. As Dr Kyaw Sein, representative of Rangoon Division's Thingangyun Constituency-2, and U Sein Ya, representative of Irrawaddy Division's Myanaung Constituency-1, received more than half the number of the total votes cast, the chairman announced their election.

Next, assembly representatives voted to elect a representative to the vacant seat in the Council of People's Inspectors. As Thura U Saw Pru, representative of

Rakhine State's Sittwe Constituency-1 [who is the minister of transport and communications], received more than half the number of the total votes cast, he was elected as member to the Council of People's Inspectors.

Later, the Assembly elected Brigadier General Myo Nyunt to a People's Assembly Affairs Committee.

Next, the newly elected members to the Council of Ministers and the Council of Inspectors took the seats reserved for them.

As the meeting progressed, Thura U Tun Tin, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and finance, on behalf of the Council of Ministers presented the 1988-89 Economic Plan Production and Services Objectives Bill and the Report on the Financial, Economic, and Social Conditions of the State in 1988-89. As U Ba Thinn, representative of Mon State's Kyaikmaraw Constituency-1, seconded the bill, the presiding chairman announced that a date would be fixed later for the assembly to discuss the bill.

Next, U Tin Aung Hein, chairman of the Council of People's Justices, presented the report of his council. The chairman announced that a separate date would be fixed for the Assembly to discuss the report.

Later, State Council Secretary U Sein Lwin reported the matters concerning the 1978 International Convention on Training, Certification, and Roster for Merchant Seaman; the 1973-78 International Convention on Prevention of Sea Pollution by Ships; and the 1969 International Convention on Ship Tonnage. The chairman later announced that the assembly would discuss those matters on 15 March.

Next, U Min Gaung, minister of home and religious affairs, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, reported about the bill amending the 1974 Narcotic Drugs Law and the draft rule amending the 1974 Narcotic Drugs Rules. U Kam Liam Bwe, representative from Chin State's Palrtwa Constituency-1, seconded the bill and the draft rule.

The chairman said a date would be fixed later for the Assembly to discuss the matters.

Later, U Sein Lwin, secretary of the State Council, reported the bill amending the People's Assembly Representaties Rights Law. As U Win Maung of Rangoon Division's Tamwe Constituency seconded the bill, the chairman announced that the bill would be discussed at a later date.

This was followed by U Myint Maung, chairman of the Council of People's Attorneys, presenting the report of his council. The chairman announced that a date would be fixed later for the Assembly to discuss the report.

Next, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, Thura U Tun Tin, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and finance, presented the the 1988 State Appropriations Bill. As U Sein Aung, representative of Magwe Division's Yesagyo Constituency-1, seconded the bill, the chairman announced that the assembly would discuss the bill at a date to be fixed later.

Later, the presiding chairman reported about the visit to Burma by a French parliamentary delegation.

The meeting ended at 1545 today.

Kachin Leader Seeks End to 40-year Insurgency

BK140110 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Mar 88 pp 1, 3

[By Suthep Chawiwan]

[Text] Three Pagoda Pass—A leader of the Burmese rebel National Democratic Front [NDF] has asked four Asian embassies in Rangoon to approach the Ne Win government with proposals to end the 40-year insurgency.

Revealing the approach, Kachin national organisation leader Brang Seng said the NDF on Saturday formally called on Rangoon to seek a political settlement and a federal union to allow ethnic minorities greater autonomy.

The NDF leaders also urged the United States and other countries to cut support to Ne Win's government, claiming it was using U.S.-provided helicopters in military operations against the insurgents.

The rebels said U.S.-made defoliants, possibly spiked by the Burmese with "more potent" substances, were causing illness among people and were killing livestock.

Washington has provided Rangoon with aircraft and herbicides to spray remote border areas where ethnic minority groups grow opium.

The NDF, a coalition of 10 guerrilla groups, invited journalists to the Three Pagodas Pass settlement controlled by the Mon National Liberation Army.

Other ethnic minority groups represented were the Kachin, Wa, Palaung, Pa-o, Karenni, Arakanese, Lahu and Shan.

The Karens, who were absent, said they could not attend because they had an urgent meeting of their own.

Brang Seng said the approach to the Asian embassies in Rangoon was suggested to him by a diplomat in the Burmese capital.

"I accepted the idea," he said. "So far, diplomats of four Asian embassies will help me carry out this work.

"The diplomats themselves will bring my letter to Ne Win and I believe that Ne Win himself will accept our proposal," said Brang Seng, who saw negotiations as the only means to a settlement.

Brang Seng declined to identify the diplomats or the nations they represent and was reticent about the details of the proposals.

"So far, we do not know Ne Win's thoughts about us but we believe he will accept our offer. It is the first time we have offered peace through diplomatic channels," Brang Seng said.

Brang Seng, 57, a member of the NDF presidium who plays a key role in leading the NDF work, leads the Kachins, which with about 20,000 troops, is the strongest rebel faction.

"During recent months, our group has spent several million kyats financing the NDF work," said Brang Seng, who went to several countries in Asia and Europe last year to publicise the rebels' position.

NDF chairman and Karenni leader Saw Mah Reh said peace talks to end the insurgency should be held on neutral ground with an impartial mediator.

Three countries had expressed interest in mediating, he said without elaborating.

"The alliance does not want war and desires to end the civil conflict as soon as is feasible, thereby ushering in a truly lasting peace," he said.

He called for a federal form of government and a democratic, multi-party system to replace Ne Win's one-party rule.

Saw Mah Reh said his group wanted to "present its case to the outside world" and counter Burmese claims last year that the insurgency would be crushed within two years.

Ethnic groups began a jungle rebellion nearly four decades ago, embittered by a purported betrayal of the federal union concept under which Britain granted Burma independence.

The insurgency intensified following Ne Win's seizure of power in 1962 and his subsequent efforts to centralise the regime.

The rebel leaders also denied they were trafficking narcotics to fund their campaign.

They said they had a "very rigorous" anti-narcotics policy, including pursuing opium eradication and teachnig youth about the harmful affects of drugs.

Western narcotics sources say some, notably the Karen and Kachin, probably do not traffic in narcotics.

But other ethnic minorities and their organisations are involved in the massive flow of opium, from which heroin is refined, out of Burma.

The Burmese Communist Party [BCP], which is also waging war against Rangoon, is widely regarded as a major producer and trafficer.

The NDF said its cooperation with the BCP is limited to "military matters".

The NDF leaders said that contrary to Burmese government reports, guerrilla forces had strengthened since the coalition's second congress last June.

The chairman said the 10 groups could field 35,000 troops and controlled about half the country.

"Synchronised attacks" had been stepped up and behind-the-lines raids increased, he said, and the NDF had divided operations into three military zones for better coordination.

Analysts say that while there is little chance the rebels will win, the government may not be able to wipe out the insurgencies without some political concessions.

"Freedom is worth dying for," said Brang Seng when asked why the insurgents have kept up the struggle so long.

The news conference was held in a steamy, crowded building just across the frontier line from Thailand.

The border crossing point is controlled by Mon soldiers armed with M-16 rifles and protected by bunkers.

The village around it bustles with a two-way, black market trade on which the rebels impose a tax to fund their war.

Foreign Minister Condoles Pham Hung's Death

BK141600 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] U Ye Gaung, minister of foreign affairs of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, visited the SRV Embassy at No 40, Komin Kochin Road, Rangoon, at 1100 today and registered his condolences for the passing away of SRV Premier Mr Pham Hung on 10 March 1988.

Minister U Ye Gaung was welcomed at the embassy by Mr Nguyen Hao, SRV ambassador to Burma, and U Shwe Zin, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Amendments to Societies Act To Be Tabled
BK141313 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1250 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 14 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed said Monday the government will table amendments to the Societies Act 1960 and the federal Constitution to keep up with the current situation.

The prime mwnister told reporters at Parliament House here that the amendments included Section 12 (3) of the act.

Several minor consequential amendments will also be made," he said.

Under Section 12 (3), an organization is unlawful if there are branches or divisions that are not registered with the Registrar of Societies.

The High Court had on Feb 4 declared the old UMNO [United Malays National Organization], the major component of the 13-party ruling National Front (Barisan Nasional) of which Dr Mahathir was president, unlawful under the Societies Act because 30 of its branches were not registered with the Registrar of Societies.

However, the prime minister did not say whether the amendments were related to the court action.

The court ruling was made following an application by 11 former UMNO members to declare the party's April 24 elections last year null and void because of the 30 unregistered branches.

The prime minister said the amendments to the federal Constitution involved "land and reserve land and other matters."

He did not say when the amendments to the Societies Act and the federal Constitution would be tabled in the Dewan Rakyat (House of Representatives).

However, he said: "The government hopes the draft amendments will be ready tomorrow (?Tuesday). After that, you all can see them."

On the white paper on the recent mass detentions under the Internal Security Act, the prime minister said it would be published when ready and distributed to the MPs at the current Dewan Rakyat sitting.

Singapore

Lee Kuan Yew, Entourage Leave for India
BK151137 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] The Prime Minister and Mrs Lee Kuan Yew left today for week-long official visits to India and Pakistan. They were accompanied by the senior minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Mr S. Rajaratnam; the minister for law, Mr E.W. Barker; and the minister for labor, Mr Lee Yock Suan. Among the senior officials who accompanied the prime minister was the member of Parliament for Braddell Heights, Mr Goh Choon Kang.

During the prime minister's absence, Mr Goh Chok Tong, the first deputy prime minister, will act as prime minister.

Cambodia

Bou Thang Addresses Pham Hung Memorial Service
BK150545 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0415 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, 15 Mar (SPK)—A ceremony was organized in Phnom Penh this morning in memory of Pham Hung, member of the Political Bureau of the CPV Central Committee and chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers.

More than 1,200 representatives from public services, mass organizations, and the Armed Forces were present. The presidium included Bou Thang, member of the Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Nguon Nhel, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Phnom Penh's KPRP Committee; Sam Sundoeun, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the People's Revolutionary Youth Union; Koy Buntha, member of the Central Committee and defense minister; superior bonze Tep Vong, vice chairman of the KUFNCD National Council and of the National Assembly.

Ngo Dien, Vietnamese ambassador to Cambodia, and representatives of Vietnamese experts and volunteers on mission in Cambodia, were also present.

In his funeral oration, Bou Thang said:

"The Cambodian people share the pain of Vietnam's Communists and people over this immense loss.

"Pham Hung has left us forever after being relieved of his noble task, but his personality and his ideals will remain part of the glorious cause of the Vietnamese party and people. His desire to see a glorious socialist Vietnam and a prosperous Vietnamese people has become reality.

"With immeasurable regret over Pham Hung's death, the Cambodian party, Armed Forces, and people wish to convey their profound condolences to the Vietnamese party, government, and people and to the family of the deceased. Our people are firmly convinced that under the just leadership of the CPV, the Vietnamese people will transform their pain into revolutionary determination and achieve new successes in national defense and construction.

"His heroic will to fight and his good behavior will remain forever engraved on the hearts of Cambodian cadres, party members, and combatants. We pledge to uphold the spirit of self-reliance, agree to all kinds of sacrifices, and strengthen national unity and international solidarity. This will enable us to achieve the immediate primary tasks of firmly defending national independence, building the Cambodian fatherland, and strengthening the militant solidarity of between Cambodia and Vietnam and among Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos."

Chea Sim Condoles on Pham Hung's Death

BK150546 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the KUFNCD National Council, recently sent a message of condolences to Comrade Huynh Tan Phat, chairman of the VFF Central Committee Presidium.

The message stated:

On behalf of the KUFNCD National Council, the Cambodian people throughout the country, and myself, I would like to express deepest grief and sorrow over the recent death of Comrade Pham Hung.

Until the last day of his life, Comrade Pham Hung, outstanding leader and valiant combatant of the CPV, devoted all his physical and moral efforts to regional peace and the peoples of the world. The passing of Comrade Pham Hung is not only a great loss to the Vietnamese people; it is also a great and most significant loss to the Cambodian people. Comrade Pham Hung has indeed left this world. However, his great prestige, as well as his example of heroism and patriotic ideal for socialism and peace for all mankind, will live forever in the hearts of the Cambodian people, Cambodian communists, and peace-loving peoples of the world.

It is with the deepest sorrow that the KUFNCD National Council, the Cambodian people throughout the country, and I wish to mourn this sad occasion with the fraternal Vietnamese party, government, front, and people and the bereft family.

Hun Sen Closes Agricultural Performance Meeting

BK140710 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] The meeting to review agricultural tasks throughout the country at the Chamka Dong Agricultural Institute was successfully concluded on the afternoon of 12 March under the chairmanship of Comrade Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister.

For 5 days, participants in the meeting held wholehearted discussions and lively exchanges of experiences on the agricultural situation in 1987, and set targets and planned measures for 1988 with a lofty sense of responsibility. In addition, delegates from provinces and municipalities pointed out some good experiences and a number of shortcomings gleaned from the tasks implemented in the past year. The meeting also noted key issues, both strong and weak points, which greatly influenced agricultural work in 1987. These have become good experiences for carrying out agricultural tasks in the coming years.

Last year, a number of promising factors emerged, such as good experience in leadership and management, setting up and implementing intensive cultivation, lengthening the cultivation season, and switching from ordinary rice to early rice, as well as good management in using tractors to till lands on time. Furthermore, the use of fuel, water pumps, and pumping stations, and promoting the construction of small waterworks by the people produced better results. Taking care of crops and animal husbandry were also intensified.

Problems encountered in the 1987 production work clearly showed that agriculture depended almost entirely on nature. Agricultural material and means and skilled cadres were used in many other fields while they were needed at the peak of the agricultural task. The management of the cultivation area was inadequate due to the lack of skilled cadres. The organizational structure, from central to local levels, was not yet strong enough. Moreover, a number of responsible services did not cooperate closely with one another nor did they actively assist one another in solving immediate problems. The meeting unanimously agreed on the targets and measures to be implemented in 1988 and pledged to fulfill the plan, particularly concerning the yield.

In closing the meeting, Comrade Hun Sen called on participants to strive to focus on the agricultural task and production in 1988, aimed at fulfilling at any cost the plan for party and state to cultivate 1,960,000 hectares and ensuring a yield of 2,600,000 metric tons. The comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers stressed that to achieve this plan, all provinces and municipalities should pay great attention to the three broad measures, namely expanding the cultivation surface, lengthening

the cultivation season, and practicing intensive cultivation. Upon returning to their localities, all provincial and municipal delegates should strive to put into practice the good measures and experiences gained from the meeting to propel the 1988 agricultural work toward exceeding the plan.

The ceremony concluded after the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers presented rotating banners of the Council of Ministers to Kompong Cham, Kompong Thom, Takeo, and Stung Treng Provinces, which performed outstanding work in their agricultural work in 1987.

Party-State Delegation Tours Takeo Province

BK130658 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] On 5 March, a party-state delegation led by Comrade Chea Soth, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, visited party leaders, officials, cadres, personnel, workers, and people in various localities in Takeo Province. Chea Soth was accompanied by Comrade Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Masah Loah, deputy minister attached to the bureau of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Phan Phin, deputy minister of Industry; Comrade Phang Saret, deputy minister of Home and Foreign Trade; and Comrade Chhim Seng, deputy minister of Communications, Transport, and Posts.

During its stay in Takeo Province, the party-state delegation visited people in Phnum Den village of Choan Chum commune, the Army unit of Kirivong District, and Mr [name indistinct] in Choan Chum commune, who sent his six sons to join the Army, and Mrs Ney Set in Saom village, who sent her five sons to join the Army. The delegation also visited [words indistinct], ice factory, the provincial (?rice warehouse), and dike No 15. The dike is 18,830 meters long and 24,000 inhabitants are completing the remaining 6,210-meter stretch. The dike is capable of channeling water into 35,000 hectares of fields for growing dry-season rice.

On the morning of 12 March, the delegation attended a meeting to sum up the implementation of the resolutions of the fifth party Central Committee's second plenum and to review economic plans for 1988 and the coming years. During the meeting, Comrade Chea Soth praised the achievements of Takeo Province in the past 2 years. He exhorted all participants to strive harder to expand their work quality, thus displaying true feats in solidly building genuine revolutionary forces in localities, successfully implementing the party's 5-year socioeconomic program, creating good experiences for [words indistinct], and improving the people's well-being.

Leaders Thank Laos for Anniversary Greetings

BK150146 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State; Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly; and Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PRK, recently sent a message of thanks to Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the LPDR; Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, acting President of the LPDR; and Comrade Sisomphon Lovansai, acting chairman of the Lao Supreme People's Council. The message said:

We sincerely thank the LPRP Central Committee, the Supreme People's Council, the Council of Ministers of the LPDR, and the fraternal Lao people for their greetings on the ninth anniversary of the PRK's national day.

The traditional fraternal relations between the Cambodian and Lao peoples constitute a factor in favor of the steady strengthening and development of the firm and special cooperation between the PRK and the LPDR. They also promote such cooperation among the three fraternal countries of Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos in the common struggle on all fronts in the interest of each country's people and for the cause of socialism and peace in the region and the world.

In this spirit, the entire Cambodian party, government, and people wish to reiterate their enthusiastic support for and constantly ready assistance to the just struggle of the fraternal Lao people in the defense of national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity as well as in countering all attempts at interference and aggression by regional reactionaries, imperialists, and expansionists.

We wish the fraternal Lao people under the clear-sighted guidance of the LPRP with its wise leader, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, additional success in implementing the resolutions of the Fourth LPRP Congress in building and defending the country in the advance toward socialism and maintaining peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the world.

Khmer Rouge Takes 'Secret Steps' To Regain Power

BK140356 Hong Kong AFP in English 0320 GMT 14 Mar 88

[By Jacques Michel Tondre: "Khmer Rouge Prepares To Retake Power in Cambodia"]

[Text] Bangkok, March 14 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge is taking secret steps to enable it to return to power in Cambodia once Vietnamese forces have withdrawn from the country in 1990, diplomatic and resistance sources said here.

Various diplomatic sources have noted a new Khmer Rouge strategy aimed at avoiding all direct confrontation with the Vietnamese, infiltrating reliable men into the Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh administration and building up arms caches for what one Western diplomat has tagged "the big day."

It is the same strategy, the diplomat said, that the Khmer Rouge employed with success when it fought alongside supporters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, with Vietnamese and Chinese aid, against the pro-U.S. Lon Nol government that fell in April 1975.

Ousted from power in January 1979 by an invading Vietnamese army after more than three years of bloody rule, the Khmer Rouge today remains the biggest fighting force in the tripartite resistance coalition that is recognized by the United Nations as the legitimate government of Cambodia.

The Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), founded in Kuala Lumpur in June 1982, also includes Prince Sihanouk's supporters and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front led by former premier Son Sann.

The new Khmer Rouge strategy has been confirmed on the ground by forces loyal to Prince Sihanouk, once Cambodia's monarch.

"They are saving their manpower and we are encountering less and less cooperation from them in military operations," an official of the National Sihanoukist Army told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

"It amounts to a deliberate policy. We are in possession of secret documents which prove they are preparing to retake power. They refrain from provocations against the Vietnamese and leave us to carry the weight in combat," he said.

No joint military operation by the resistance has been reported since September, despite CGDK propaganda praising the supposed cooperation between the three coalition partners.

At the same time the Khmer Rouge is referring more often to the "three elements" which it says are the basis of the national liberation struggle.

Those elements refer not to the three resistance factions, but to the Khmer Rouge army, civilians on the side of the Cambodian resistance and rebellious Phnom Penh government troops.

Hanoi has pledged to withdraw its estimated 140,000 troops in Cambodia in 1990, with or without a peace accord.

Faced with an apparent Khmer Rouge threat as the crucial year draws near, the Sihanoukist army has been attempting to beef up its military structure. Commanded by Prince Rannarit, the son of Prince Sihanouk, the army now claims 17,700 men, of which 11,200 are said to be operating permanently inside Cambodia.

By comparison, Khmer Rouge guerrillas are said to number 30,000.

The Sihanoukist army said Saturday it had killed 15 Vietnamese in two days early this month in Siem Reap Province, where Hanoi has built an important military base.

One combat operation involved 85 guerrillas and lasted about one hour—figures which experts say show the ability of the prince's forces to conduct real fighting, rather than limited engagements.

Vietnamese Division Commander Killed

BK150127 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Excerpt] On 4 March, a Vietnamese jeep leaving Bek Chan in Thmar Puok District [Battambang Province] ran over our mines and exploded in a ball of fire. Two Vietnamese riding in the jeep, one of them a division commander, were killed. [passage omitted]

SRV Troops Attacked in Phnom Penh, Peam Ta

BK150125 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 14 Mar 88

[From the feature: "Daily Report From Various Battlefields"]

[Excerpt] Phnom Penh battlefield: Our National Army lobbed grenades at the Vietnamese enemy at O Russei market in Phnom Penh. On the evening of 2 March, our National Army lobbed three grenades at the Vietnamese enemy at O Russei market in the heart of Phnom Penh city, killing three Vietnamese soldiers and wounding five others.

Peam Ta battlefield: Our National Army liberated and occupied a position held by a Vietnamese battalion at O Tracheak Chet:

On 10 March, our National Army completely liberated and occupied a position held by a Vietnamese battalion at O Tracheak Chet. We killed 15 Vietnamese soldiers on the spot, including a battalion commander and 2 company commanders. Twenty-two others were wounded. We destroyed one 60-mm mortar, five B-40's, four B-41's, three RPD's, two AK's, a C-25 walkie-talkie, a telephone, and other war materiel. We also seized 2 B-40's, 1 RPD, 4 AK's, 20 hand grenades, and other war materiel.

On 10 March, a platoon of Vietnamese soldiers sallying out of Peam Ta in an attempt to rescue troops at O Tracheak Chet encountered booby traps on the road. Ten Vietnamese soldiers, including a regimental expert, were killed, and eight others were wounded. We destroyed 1 pistol, 10 AK's, and some war materiel and seized 1 B-40, 2-AK's, and other war materiel.

Later in the day, Vietnamese soldiers coming to retrieve the bodies of their comrades at the site of the booby trap attack stepped on our mines, triggering a series of explosions that killed two and wounded three others. [passage omitted]

VONADK Urges Vietnam To End Pham Hung Policy

BK150034 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 23145 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Unattributed commentary: "Pham Hung, Vietnam's Latest Prime Minister, Is Dead"]

[Text] Le Duan, the instigator of the devastating war of aggression in Cambodia, has died, and now Pham Hung, Hanoi's latest prime minister, has died on 10 March 1988 of a heart attack at the age of 75.

What is Vietnam's situation at the time of Pham Hung's death? It is generally agreed that:

1. More than 100,000 Vietnamese troops are committing aggression against and occupying Cambodia and have been sowing havoc and murder on the innocent Cambodian nation and people for more than 9 years. Therefore, like the late Le Duan, Pham Hung was a Hanoi leader who died as a notorious murderer and a vile criminal in the eyes of the Cambodian nation and people.
2. The more than 100,000 Vietnamese troops are almost choking to death in their attempt to swallow Cambodia.
3. The Vietnamese economy and finances have hit rock bottom, Vietnamese society is corrupt to the bone, and the Vietnamese people's living conditions are so poor that it is common knowledge that present-day Vietnam is the world's poorest nation.
4. Vietnam is utterly isolated; both Vietnam and the Vietnamese leadership have been cursed and condemned from all directions for their policy of aggression and annexation against Cambodia.

Therefore, Pham Hung's death was not a natural death. Rather, it was triggered by these factors which brought him to a shameful and unnatural death. He died as a notorious murderer, as one who brought endless misery and suffering to Vietnam and to the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples, and as one who heaped infamy on Vietnam and on his own name as well as the names of future Vietnamese leaders.

Now Pham Hung has died an unnatural death like Le Duan. What do his successors think? Will they continue the policy pursued by the late Le Duan and Pham Hung? Will they abandon the odious policy and become good men again? There is only one way for them:

1. They must stop the aggression against Cambodia and withdraw all the aggressor forces from Cambodia.
2. They must gather all the forces of the Vietnamese people and youths, as well as all Vietnam's resources, and concentrate them on the nation's reconstruction so that the Vietnamese nation and people can enjoy a better life.
3. They must become good men and establish good relations in peace with neighboring countries so that peace can prevail in Southeast Asia.

The Cambodian people always extend the hand of friendship and peace to Vietnam and the Vietnamese people. Now it is up to the Hanoi leaders themselves. Their destiny and that of Vietnam and the Vietnamese people depend on no one else.

Vietnamese and Hanoi aggressor troops in Cambodia: All of you must think of opposing the destructive policy of the Hanoi leadership. You must fight so that the Vietnamese people can enjoy peace and a better life, and so that Vietnamese youths no longer die by the thousands in the war of aggression against Cambodia.

VODK Condemns SRV Phnom Penh 'Puppets'

BK120841 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Station commentary: "The Phnom Penh Puppets Are Mere Traitors Who Only Obey Hanoi's Orders"]

[Text] The Vietnamese enemy is now working hard to put cosmetic layers on its handful of puppets in Phnom Penh and to disseminate all types of deceitful propaganda in an attempt to deceive world opinion into believing that Vietnam's puppets in Phnom Penh constitute a government and are in control of state power.

Vietnam's main objective is to conceal its aggression in Cambodia and confuse the political solution to the Cambodian issue. However, the Cambodian people have already discovered the true nature of this Vietnamese puppet regime and, in the past 9 years, so has the world. The Cambodian people regard the Vietnamese puppets in Phnom Penh as a gang of traitors who have neither national spirit nor any roots in Cambodian society. They are Vietnam's cheap lackeys and, in connivance with the Vietnamese, they unhesitatingly massacre their own people, and pillage and ruin their nation. Moreover, these Vietnamese puppets have no strength of their own nor the knowledge to do anything.

The number of Cambodian soldiers forcibly drafted by the Vietnamese in the past 9 years is dwindling steadily due to the growing number of desertions and defections to the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea. This is also a result of mutinies against the Vietnamese enemy, as more troops are turning their guns against the Vietnamese in an increasingly vigorous manner.

Village and commune officials, militiamen, and guerrillas set up by the Vietnamese in various localities have also become increasingly scattered and shaken because, on the one hand, our forces are stepping up attacks on villages and dismantling more Vietnamese administrative networks and, on the other hand, our forces have more seething anti-Vietnamese feelings and are rebelling against the Vietnamese enemy more energetically.

Even the officials in Phnom Penh are not at all happy with the Vietnamese authorities who murder and rob their people. They oppose the Vietnamese and are waiting for an opportunity to defect.

Thus, the so-called Phnom Penh puppet regime is, in reality, nothing at all. It is a mere shadow of the more than 100,000 Vietnamese troops in Cambodia, waiting to execute Vietnamese orders and to repeat what Vietnam has said. Activities, from the lowest level to the highest, including the military, political, diplomatic, propaganda, cultural, and other fields, have been entirely organized and performed by the Vietnamese. The Heng Samrin gang has neither rights nor authority in the Vietnamese regime in Cambodia and its members know nothing at all.

In their confidential documents of June 1987, the Vietnamese clearly admitted that if the Cambodian issue were settled politically, the Phnom Penh regime would have neither sufficient forces nor cadres to manage the country's affairs. This means that if the Vietnamese withdrew from Cambodia, the Vietnamese puppets in Phnom Penh would automatically collapse and be incapable of doing anything at all. This is why the Hanoi authorities persistently refuse to pull their aggressor troops out of Cambodia in accordance with the UN resolution. They are using all tricks and means, such as the partial troop withdrawal scheme or the ploy of the so-called troop withdrawal in 1990 with the intention of escaping international pressure.

The Cambodian people do not need the Vietnamese invasion or occupation. Nor do they need the Vietnamese to control Cambodia or to manage Cambodian state affairs on their behalf. They demand that Vietnam withdraw all its aggressor troops from Cambodia and allow the Cambodian people to determine their own destiny without external interference. Moreover, the CGDK has offered a flexible and generous eight-point peace proposal. This plan would allow the Vietnamese puppets to join the coalition government to prepare an election in Cambodia after Vietnam has withdrawn its troops from Cambodia.

The Hanoi authorities should know that this is the best procedure for both Vietnam itself and its puppets in Phnom Penh.

Briefs

39 'Enemy' Soldiers Surrender

According to reports from various provinces across the country, 39 enemy soldiers surrendered to the revolutionary authorities during the week of 4-10 March. This stemmed from the fact that our people throughout the country have thoroughly spread the six-point party and state policy of leniency. As part of their effort, they went into the jungle to awaken these enemy soldiers to the realities of the Cambodian revolution. The authorities and people have now allowed the 39 returnees to embark upon a new life. [Text] *[Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Mar 88 BK]*

Returnees in Pursat Province

Phnom Penh, 14 Mar (SPK)—In the first 2 months of this year, 11 Pol Pot soldiers left their ranks to join the revolution in Pursat Province, 150 km northwest of Phnom Penh. The returnees brought with them 10 assorted weapons and a quantity of ammunition. In 1987, Pursat received 36 returnees, including 34 Pol Pot soldiers and 2 Son Sann soldiers, and 30 assorted weapons with ammunition. [Text] *[Phnom Penh SPK in French 1154 GMT 14 Mar 88 BK]*

Kompong Thom Army Recruits

In January, women in Kompong Thom Province allowed 218 husbands, sons, and relatives to serve in the Army and 33 others in militia forces to defend villages and communes. In addition, 43 misled persons were persuaded to return to the fold, bringing with them 18 assorted weapons and a large quantity of war materiel. Women in Sandan and Baray Districts were outstanding in the proselytization movement. [Summary] *[Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Mar 88 BK]*

Army Operations in Stoung District

In January, the armed forces of Stoung District in Kompong Thom Province cooperated closely with Vietnamese Army volunteers in conducting 39 sweep operations against the enemy in defense of the area. Thirty-five enemy troops were immobilized—12 killed and 23 wounded—and some war materiel was seized. Our armed forces also cooperated with the local people and revolutionary authorities in persuading 10 misled persons to return to the revolution. The returnees brought a B-40.5 and other war materiel with them. The armed forces of Stoung District also planted crops to provide additional rations for the units. [Text] *[Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 12 Mar 88 BK]*

Indonesia

Malaysian Leaders Congratulate Suharto

BK141529 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba have congratulated President Suharto for his recent reelection as president. The two Malaysian leaders also prayed that the Almighty God will always give his blessings to President Suharto and Vice President Sudharmono, who have been entrusted by the Indonesian people to be the country's leaders.

Prime Minister Mahathir expressed his conviction that under President Suharto's leadership, the close relations between the two countries will continue to grow in the coming years.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba expressed his belief that with the vast experiences at his disposal, Vice President Sudharmono will be able to serve the country and nation well.

Subroto Protests OPEC Oil Price Cuts

BK141245 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Indonesia has lodged a protest against oil price cuts by a number of OPEC countries that sell their crude oil to the Japanese market. Mining and Energy Minister Subroto said this in Jakarta today after signing oil exploration agreements between Pertamina state oil corporation and Japanese companies (Ishomushi), (Mobil Mushi), and [name indistinct].

Subroto noted that the price cuts had weakened oil price in the world markets. He said that while Indonesia has not yet been affected by the weakened price, the country will definitely suffer the negative consequences if the price continues to plunge.

Subroto added that Indonesia has always remained faithful to the resolution adopted by OPEC ministers last December and continues to sell its Minas and Duri type oil at the agreed price, namely $17.56 and $16.10 per barrel.

Current Rice Stock as Described as 'Alarming'

BK141442 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 8 Mar 88 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] Jakarta, KOMPAS—As of early March this year, the rice stock of the Bulog [Logistics Board] stood at only 800,000 metric tons, far below the iron stock [preceding two words in English] of 1 million metric tons. This amount is rather alarming in case a natural disaster should occur in the country.

The low rice stock has also hindered the Bulog from initiating market maneuvers aimed at coping with the increasing rice price. To cope with the current situation, the Bulog plans to import rice, but this plan has not been approved. The only alternative is to buy rice from farmers at higher prices.

However, the Agriculture Department continues to express its optimism that current rice production will be able to meet the people's needs and increase the Bulog's low rice stock. Junior Minister in charge of Increasing Foodstuffs Products Wardoyo voiced this optimism in an interview with KOMPAS at his office last Friday [4 March].

Wardoyo said that the Bulog had requested government's approval to import 200,000 metric tons of rice to meet its stock shortfall, but the request was not granted by the president. The iron stock is normally set at 1 million metric tons.

Another source says that the iron stock should be 5 percent from the total annual rice production, that is to say, in 1988, the iron stock should be 1.4 million metric tons because the targetted rice production for this year is 28,372,000 metric tons. The said amount is needed as reserves to cope with unexpected natural disasters, such as floods, drought, or agricultural pest.

A National Food Procurement coordinated meeting, attended by competent officials in Semarang on 26 February, agreed that Indonesia will not import rice because such action will affect the country's image of self-sufficiency in rice. In addition, the government is also trying to minimize development spending when rice price in world market is quite high. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the Diponegoro University in Semarang on 26 February, Bulog Chairman Bustanil Arifin himself said that it was understandable for us to import rice in view of the current low stock because logistic calculations require a rice stock of 3.5 million metric tons or at least 2.5 metric tons.

It is not known why since the country attained self-sufficiency in rice in 1984, the annual rice stock has consistently fallen. In March 1985, the rice stock stood at 2,315,541 metric tons; in 1986 it fell to 2,130,963 metric tons; in 1987 it fell further to 1,838,234 metric tons, and now it stands at only 800,000 metric tons. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Sugar Imports From PRC

About 7,600 tons of sugar imported from China has arrived at the Belawan Port, North Sumatera. Chief of the province office of the National Logistics Agency [Bulog] Padamulya Lubis explained that they were part of a total of 22,000 tons of sugar ordered from China to replenish Bulog's buffer stock [words indistinct] lower than estimated production last year due to the prolonged dry season. [Excerpt] *[Jakarta International Service in English 0800 GMT 11 Mar 88 BK]*

Laos

Thai Delegation To Arrive for Talks 17 March

BK150938 Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Vientiane, March 15 (OANA-KPL)—A delegation of the Thai Government led by Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, permanent secretary at the Thai Foreign Ministry, will arrive here on March 17 at the invitation issued by Major General Thonglai Kommasith, head of the Lao Government delegation.

The Lao and Thai delegations will continue to negotiate on the question of border dispute at Boten District, Lao Sayaboury Province, and Chat Trakan District, Thai Phitsanulok Province, in order to pave a way for restoring friendly relations between the two countries on the basis of good-neighborliness.

The Thai response to the Lao invitation issued on March 11 was handed over to the Lao Foreign Ministry here at 1630 hours of March 14.

Deputy Minister of National Defense Dies

BK150549 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] The LPRP Central Committee and the LPDR Council of Ministers issued the following press release on the demise of Comrade Major General Khampha Chaleunphonmisai:

The LPRP Central Committee and the LPDR Council of Ministers, with tremendous grief and regret, inform cadres, party members, combatants, and multiethnic people inside and outside the country, as well as relatives of Comrade Major General Khampha Chaleunphonmisai, that Comrade Major General Khampha Chaleunphonmisai, member of LPDR Central Committee and deputy minister of national defense, passed away in an aircraft accident on 14 March while performing his duty. As it is deemed appropriate to his honor and status, the body of Comrade Major General Khampha Chaleunphonmisai has been kept at the central club of the National Defense Ministry for cadres, military officers, combatants, state officials, relatives, and friends to bid farewell. The funeral ceremony will be held on the premises of the General Logistics Department of the LPA in the capital of Vientiane at 1500 on 17 March. [Dated] Vientiane, 14 March 1988 [Signed] The LPRP Central Committee and the LPDR Council of Ministers

Funeral Committee Appointed

BK151323 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 15 Mar 88

["Decree" of Political Bureau of LPRP Central Committee; dated 14 March]

[Text] Following is the decree of the Political Bureau of the LPRP Central Committee on an appointment of a committee in charge of organizing the funeral for Comrade Major General Khampha Chaleunphonmisai:

To implement the policy of the party and state toward deceased cadres in a dignified manner in accordance with their status, the Political Bureau of the LPRP Central Committee has decided on the following:

A. To appoint a committee in charge of organizing the funeral for Comrade Maj Gen Khampha Chaleunphonmisai, member of the party Central Committee and deputy minister of national defense, who died in an aircraft accident at 1230 on 14 March while performing his duty. The committee consists of the following comrades:

1. Comrade Major General Choummali Sai-gnason, alternate Political Bureau member and secretary of the party Central Committee and first deputy minister of national defense, as chairman.

2. Comrade Khambou Sounisai, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the National Committee for War Veterans and Social Welfare, as vice chairman.

3. Comrade A-sang Laoli, member of the party Central Committee and acting minister of interior, as vice chairman.

4. Comrade Major General Osakan Thammatheva, member of the party Central Committee and deputy minister of national defense, as member.

5. Comrade Thongmani Thiphommachan, member of the party Central Committee, deputy secretary of the party Committee and vice chairman of the Administrative Committee of Vientiane municipality, as member.

6. Comrade Son Khamvanvongsa, alternate member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee for News Agency, Newspaper, Radio, and Television, as member.

7. Comrade Phao Phimphachan, deputy minister and deputy chief of Office of the party Central Committee and of the Council of Ministers, as member.

8. Comrade Brigadier General Kongsi, deputy chief of the LPA General Logistics Department, as member.

9. Comrade Brigadier General Bounthon, deputy chief of the LPA General Staff Department, as member.

10. Comrade (Gni Singpaseut), member of the Organizing Committee of the party Central Committee, as member.

11. Comrade Brigadier General Savai Sai-gnasena, chief of Office of the National Defense Ministry.

B. To organize mourning for Comrade Maj Gen Khampha Chaleunphonmisai for 3 days—from 15 to 17 March 1988.

[Dated] Vientiane, 14 March 1988

[Signed] General Khamtai Siphandon, on behalf of the Political Bureau of the LPRP Central Committee

Leaders Attend Mass Rally Welcoming Heroes

BK130848 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] This morning, more than 20,000 Vientiane residents organized a grand rally in an enthusiastic atmosphere to hail the victories of soldiers and people on the Boten battlefield. Attending the rally as guests of honor at the presidium platform were Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the LPDR; Comrade Souphanouvong, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee, president of the Republic, and chairman of the Supreme People's Council; Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee, acting president of the Republic, and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade General Khamtai Siphandon, Political Bureau member and secretary of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of national defense, and commander in chief of the LPA; and Comrade General Sisavat Keobounphan, Political Bureau member and secretary of the party Central Committee, chief of the LPA General Staff, secretary of the party committee and chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane municipality; along with comrade members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, representatives of central mass organizations, and representatives of old and new heroes and combatants. Also attending the rally were a large crowd of cadres, military and police officers and men, state employees, workers, and representatives of mass organizations together with students, schoolchildren, Young Pioneers, and fraternal people of Vientiane capital.

Members of the presidium arrived at 0630 when the official ceremony began with the playing of the national anthem by the LPA musical band. Young girls presented bouquets of fragrant flowers to the members of the presidium of the rally. Comrade Khamphong Phanvongsa, alternate member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane municipality, on behalf of the ceremony organizing committee, took the floor to make a speech on the purposes of the rally. He invited Comrade Gen Sisavat Keobounphan, Political Bureau member and secretary of the party Central Committee, chief of the LPA General Staff, secretary of the party committee and administrative committee of Vientiane municipality, to deliver an opening speech.

Afterward, Comrade Gen Khamtai Siphandon addressed the rally. He praised and hailed the achievements and victories of our soldiers and people on the Boten District battlefield, who resolutely and heroically fought and painfully defeated the aggressors and securely safeguarded the independence and sovereignty of the nation. He said that the party, state, and nation will forever engrave the meritorious deeds of the heroes and combatants who have sacrificed their lives for this honorable cause. He also called on various combat units to promote, expand, and maintain this glorious tradition forever.

Later, Comrade Lt Gen Saman Vi-gnaket, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and chief of the Central Organizing Committee, took the floor to read decrees and invite the leaders of our party, state, and army to confer various medals on various units and individuals. Twenty-two units and 15 comrades were awarded with Heroic Orders and First-Class Medals of Freedom, 27 units awarded with Heroic Orders and First-Class Medals of Bravery; and 58 comrades awarded with Orders of Emulation Combatants and Second-Class Medals of Freedom. In addition, 144 units and more than 2,000 individuals were entitled to various types of models and certificates of commendation which will be presented to them in ceremonies to be held in the near future.

After the orders and models were conferred on the heroic units and individuals and outstanding emulation combatants who have scored outstanding achievements in the fighting to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity in Na Bonoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province, Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan delivered a speech to the rally. He hailed the glorious achievements and victories of our soldiers and people on the Boten battlefield in fighting and defeating the enemies who invaded and launched attacks to annex our Lao territory west of Boten District, Sayaboury Province. He also called on the cadres and combatants in Boten in particular and throughout the country in general to enhance the combat tradition and be determined to march forward to gloriously fulfill the tasks entrusted by the party and nation.

Sisavat Keobounphan Speech

BK131317 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Speech by General Sisavat Keobounphan, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the LPRP Central Committee, secretary of the MUnicipal party committee and chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane municipality, and chief of the LPA General Staff, delivered at 13 March mass rally in Vientiane—recorded]

[Text] Respected and beloved Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan; respected Presidium of the meeting; respected local and foreign guests; and beloved compatriots, cadres, and combatants:

Today, Vientiane Municipality is holding a grand meeting to hail the victory of the Boten battlefield.

We would like to pay wholehearted tribute to the outstanding delegates representing various units of the Armed Forces and the multiethnic people participating

in the fighting on the Boten battlefield to further enhance the tradition of heroism of the heroic Lao nation and Army who always uphold a sense of self-dependence and self-sufficiency as well as a sense of creativeness in building their own strength and fight skillfully and wisely to score great victories. [applause]

We would like to wholeheartedly hail, in the presence of our distinguished guests, our international friends for rendering support to our just and legitimate struggle for self-defense to safeguard our national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. [applause]

We wholeheartedly hail the Vientiane municipal residents and the multiethnic Lao people throughout the country for giving moral, manpower, and material support to our combatants in the battlefield, thus enabling them to defeat the enemies.

On this occasion, to express our fond memory of those cadres, combatants, and people killed in the Boten battlefield while heroically fulfilling their duties to defend our national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, I ask all of you to stand up for 1 minute in silence. [1 minute of silence follows]

Respected Presidium and distinguished guests; beloved compatriots, cadres, and combatants.

To fulfill our two strategic tasks in the new period of the revolution, the Boten battle has been regarded as the largest and fiercest fighting fought by our Armed Forces and people to defend our country against the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries. After fighting day and night for more than 60 days, we finally scored a great victory in the military, political, and international fields. It is the victory of our legitimate right to fight for self-defense and our determination to defend the esteemed independence and sovereignty of our country. It is the victory of the tradition of heroism and profound patriotism and the spirit of firm unity, perseverance, and gallantry of our Armed Forces and people in defending the country and new regime.

On this auspicious occasion and in this jubilant atmosphere, to hail the victory of the Boten battlefield, I officially declare the opening of the rally.

Thank you. [applause]

Khamtai Siphandon Address

BK140922 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Speech by General Khamtai Siphandon, Political Bureau member and secretary of party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of defense, and commander in chief of LPA; delivered at 13 March mass rally in Vientiane—recorded]

[Text] In this joyous atmosphere and to welcome the Boten battlefield victory, I, representing the party, state, and Defense Ministry, would like to wholeheartedly praise the heroes, emulation combatants, outstanding representatives of the Armed Forces and multiethnic people who took part in the fighting on Boten battlefield. [applause]

On this occasion, I wish to extend my warm and cordial greetings and best regards to our compatriots, cadres, and combatants. We would like to wholeheartedly extend our best regards to all foreign guests attending today's ceremony to celebrate our victory. [applause]

We would like to express our profound gratitude to the cadres, combatants, and the people who have heroically sacrificed their lives to defend the country. We will always remember the great merit of those comrades, who have sacrificed their lives for the majestic victory in Boten District.

We would like to extend our cordial greetings and affection to the cadres and combatants who are undergoing medical treatment and wish them quick recovery.

Beloved compatriots, cadres, and combatants: Na Bonoi canton is situated in western Boten District. This area has been a part of our country's sacred territory since time immemorial. The Nam Heuang River clearly marks both the historic as well as legal borderline. The people on both sides of the border have always sought permission and protection from the Lao local administrative authorities in exchanging visits and earning their living in the area in compliance with the border regulations. In pursuance of the path of pan-Thaism, supported and instigated by international reactionary forces, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries have been behaving contrary to reality and truth by launching the operations to annex that part of our country's sacred territory through the most brutal schemes. At first, they resettled Thai people and brought in Thai companies to build roads and exploit Laos' natural resources in the area. They sent Lao displaced persons and Thai soldiers to illegally occupy the area. To conceal their dark schemes, they produced fake legal evidence to deceive public opinion in Thailand and elsewhere in the world, blatantly declaring that the area belongs to Thailand.

After their acts of grabbing Lao territory were punished by the Armed Forces and people of Boten District, they resorted to their military strength to continue implementation of their scheme to blatantly annex the area of Na Bonoi canton, our country's sacred territory. Since December, the fighting further expanded and became more violent every passing day. The opposite side dispatched more than 15,000 soldiers including their best divisions, hundreds of artillery pieces, and modern aircraft to bombard our territory. Sometimes, they fired as many as 10,000 artillery shells and flew as many as 50 sorties to wage war and indiscriminately bomb many dozens of kilometers inside Lao territory in a single day. They committed heinous crimes against the people of Boten District.

Beloved cadres and compatriots, in the face of such a situation, the party Political Bureau and Council of Ministers correctly analyzed the vicious tricks and schemes and mobilized our Armed Forces and people in all parts of the country to do their utmost to safeguard the country and new regime and the Armed Forces and people of Boten district to resolutely fight and firmly defend the country's sacred territory. It was the policy of our party and state to coordinate the struggle in the areas of the military, politics, and foreign affairs; promote the overall strength of the country so as to gain the support of world public opinion; resolutely defeat the enemy on the battlefield; inflict heavy casualties on them; and demoralize them and force them to settle the border problem through negotiations. Implementing the decision made by our party and state, the Armed Forces and people of Boten District have further promoted the country's heroic tradition, enhanced the spirit of heroic and persistent struggle, overcome numerous obstacles and difficulties, and continuously fought day and night for more than 50 days. Every member of our Armed Forces and people has demonstrated his willingness to make every sacrifice to defend national independence and sovereignty, wisely applied the tactics, and wiped out several thousands of the enemy soldiers from the battlefield, destroying large quantities of weapons and war equipment, gunning down many aircraft, and capturing pilots.

Regarding the struggle on the political and foreign affairs fronts, we have shown our just stand and good intentions to resolve the problems concerning Lao-Thai relations through peaceful means so as to win the support of the world's and the Thai peoples. Due to the heavy defeat on the battlefield and political isolation, they had to discard their scheme to broaden the military fighting, agree to sign the cease-fire agreement, disengage troops of both countries, and create conditions favorable to solving the border problem through negotiations. The fighting to defend and safeguard the territory in Na Bonoi canton in Boten District has won a brilliant victory and elated the people in the entire country and our friends all over the world. The Boten District victory is the victory of the just cause of self-defense, and the defense of our country's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The aforementioned just struggle has forcefully enhanced the country's heroic traditions, activated profound patriotism, stirred up the hatred against the enemy and the persistent and heroic militant solidarity of cadres, combatants, and multiethnic people in the cause of national defense.

The Boten battlefield victory dealt a heavy blow to the doctrine of pan-Thaism and contributed to the restoration of peace in Southeast Asia, foiling the dark schemes of the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries and international reactionaries aimed at creating confrontation and sabotaging the trend toward regional detente and settling disputes through political means.

The Boten battlefield victory is a great victory in the fields of military, political, and foreign affairs. It has proved the path of national defense by the entire population [words indistinct], attitude toward the people's war, the independent and peaceful foreign policy of the party is the most correct. The principle of settling international disputes through negotiations adopted by our party is suitable to reality in this region. It reflects the correct strategic guidance and policy of our party and state in coordinating military, political, and foreign affairs, as well as legal struggles; further expanding the strength of the country and the strength of the special militant alliance among the three countries—Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia; gaining the support of the world's people; and creating the aggregate strength to attack the enemy from different directions thus plunging them into confusion, defeating them on the battlefield, confining them in political isolation and denunciation by public opinion inside their own country and the world's people and forced them to sign the cease-fire agreement and disengage their troops so as to march toward solving the border problem through negotiations.

The Boten battlefield victory is the victory of the tradition of the Lao nation and the Lao Armed Forces, the spirit of self-reliance and building strength by oneself, and the determination to take the initiative in carrying out each individual's revolutionary tasks. It has shown the growth and strength of our people and Armed Forces for the cause of national defense both in terms of ideological and organizational spheres.

Being tested and tempered by the violent, prolonged, and victorious battlefield, our people and Armed Forces have learned several new lessons for the task of national defense. Our Armed Forces have registered new progress in the areas of organizational work in the battlefield, combat guidance, strategy and tactics in carrying out the party work and political, logistical, and technical undertakings. Emerging from this great victorious fighting are individuals, units, and sectors regarded as outstanding models for their spirit of combat heroism, determination, persistence, perseverance, and creativeness. The shortcomings, difficulties, and violence have further strengthened the heroic tradition of the country and Armed Forces.

Beloved compatriots, cadres, and combatants, during this ceremony to jubilantly celebrate the victory, the Armed Forces would like to express their profound gratitude and absolute confidence in the leadership of the party Central Committee, headed by the beloved and respected Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan, for attentively guiding the fighting of the Armed Forces and people on the Boten battlefield that is the most decisive factor of our victory. We would like to wholeheartedly praise and express our deep gratitude to the multiethnic people in the whole country for enhancing the national, heroic traditions and willingness to

make every sacrifice to defeat the enemy and firmly defend the country's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. [applause]

We wholeheartedly praise all units which defended major outposts on Hills 1428, 1370, 1182, and others for they have heightened revolutionary heroism and persistently and heroically overcome all shortcomings and difficulties, and confusion. The combatants would never leave their trenches even when they were wounded. Every one of them was determined to defend his base. They wisely and creatively applied combat tactics and effectively used all kinds of weapons. One person might do many duties. Signal combatants continuously maintained contacts and picked up arms to annihilate the enemy. Many units had to transport their own gear while in combat. They dared to attack and defeat bigger units and tentatively learned lessons in a timely manner thus increasing their own strength and grasping bigger victories. We wholeheartedly praise all the units which secretly sneaked to the rear of the opposite side a d bravely attacked and destroyed the depots and the enemy's transport work, inflicting heavy casualties on them and plunging them into a chaotic situation. Outstanding examples were set by the 12 heroes, among whom were numbered Comrade Hero (Boun-gnang), Comrade Hero (Kufong), Comrade Hero (Somphet), and others. We wholeheartedly praise the artillery units for their timely and accurate shelling, their tradition, against the enemy's artillery posts in support of the infantrymen enabling the latter to attack the enemy bases and check the assaulting enemy soldiers. They coordinated with the infantrymen to foil every assault launched by the enemy and destroy large quantities of war equipment.

We wholeheartedly praise and hail the various antiaircraft units for always maintaining vigilance to defend the territorial air space. Having spotted enemy aircraft in a timely manner, they shot down many modern aircraft and captured the pilots.

We wholeheartedly praise and hail the various engineering, signal, and chemical units as well as various waterways, air, and land transportation units, hospitals, and organizations for heightening the spirit of revolutionary heroism, overcoming all difficulties, effectively serving the fighting, and worthily contributing to the victories on the Boten battlefield.

We wholeheartedly praise and hail the people, militia-guerrillas, and self-defense forces of Boten, Paklai, Phiang, Sayaboury, and Kenthao Districts for their support in terms of manpower, money, and foodstuffs and doing everything to help defeat the enemies. They volunteered to transport supplies to serve the front line. They also joined in digging trenches, carrying wounded soldiers, and leading the way for militia-guerrillas. At the same time, they actively carried out production work while fighting to maintain political tranquillity and social security in the rear line.

We wholeheartedly hail various units and heroes, heroic units, and emulation combatants for serving as representatives in the emulation movements in fighting the enemies and scoring combat achievements on the Boten battlefield, thus enhancing further the traditions of the heroic Lao nation and heroic Lao Army. [applause] On behalf of the Lao party, state, Army, and people, I would like to express gratitude to Vietnam, Cambodia, the Soviet Union, and other fraternal socialist countries and friends in the world for their timely support for the just struggle and for giving us the necessary material and spiritual assistance to guarantee our victories. [applause]

Beloved compatriots, cadres, and combatants, we have achieved great victories. But, those victories are merely initial ones. The enemies have been painfully defeated. But, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries still maintain the high ambitions of their pan-Thaism and the international reactionary powers are still pursuing their schemes to weaken the three Indochinese countries with the hope of forcing them to surrender. They have also continuously implemented dark schemes aimed at sabotaging the trend toward peace, stability, and tranquillity in Southeast Asia.

On the occasion of the celebration of these victories, on behalf of the party, state, and National Defense Ministry, I would like to call on all compatriots, cadres, and combatants throughout the country to adhere to the foreign policy of independence, self-mastery, and peace of our party and state; establish relations of friendship, equality, and good faith with neighboring countries; and firmly grasp the policy of settling various disputes with other countries through negotiations. However, we must always maintain high vigilance against schemes of the enemies. We must absolutely not refrain from holding aloft the combat spirit. We must maintain combat readiness at all times and must resolutely smash all militarily adventurous acts of the enemies to securely defend the border and safeguard our people's revolutionary gains. We are required to strive to effectively implement the strategic measures of vigorously and comprehensively turning to the grass roots to fulfill tasks in the political, military, cultural, and social fields; firmly grasp the guideline of firmly combining national defense and public security maintenance work with economic construction work; endeavor to build field positions for the people's war and to turn villages into socialist fortifications; build and strengthen regional armed forces; set up militia-guerrillas and self-defense units throughout the country; set up logistic bases in vicinities; build roads; and make timely preparations in regard to manpower and necessary items for use in guaranteeing ever firmer political tranquillity and public security at the grass-roots level. We must also strive to build, consolidate, and increase the quality in all respects of the Armed Forces, regular forces, regional forces, militia-guerrillas, and self-defense units; concentrate on building strong grass-roots units; efficiently learn the combat lessons from the Boten battlefield to build the forces to be strong in the political, ideological, and organizational fields.

Let us strive to nourish, promote, and expand the true nature and traditions of the heroic Lao nation and heroic Lao Army; be unlimitedly loyal to the country and the people; resolutely follow the party's leadership; unite around the LPRP Central Committee headed by the beloved and respected Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan; closely associate and maintain close solidarity with the various tribes; maintain internal solidarity; maintain solidarity and combat alliance with Vietnam and Cambodia; and maintain and strengthen solidarity and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other fraternal, socialist countries. We must always act in a manner so as to be worthy of being the sharp and trustworthy tool of the party and state in implementing the two strategic tasks of defending the country and building socialism.

Let our compatriots, cadres, and combatants throughout the country turn the victories on the Boten battlefield into the vigor, honor, pride and determination to practically step up emulation movements in an enthusiastic atmosphere to successfully translate into reality the resolutions of the fourth party congress, various resolutions of the party Central Committee, and various plans and policies of the state.

Under the glorious banner of the party, for the independence, freedom, happy and plentiful life of the people of various tribes, and for our noble international obligations, let us make an endeavor to march forward to overcome all difficulties and concentrate all our energies, intelligence, and abilities on fulfilling the cause of defending and building the country in the new stage, to positively contribute to the cause of the struggle for peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia, the Asia-Pacific region, and the rest of the world. Let our compatriots, cadres, and combatants throughout the country struggle and march forward. Long live the glorious and majestic LPRP! [applause]

Saman Vi-gnaket Reads Decrees

BK150739 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Decree of the president of the LPDR and decree of the national defense minister read at a Vientiane rally on 13 March by Lieutenant General Saman Vi-gnaket, Political Bureau member, secretary of LPRP Central Committee, and chief of the Organizing Committee of the party Central Committee—recorded]

[Text] The Peaceful, Independent, Unified, and Socialist LPDR

No 0-3/PR [president of the Republic]

Dated 12 March 1988

Decree of the president of the LPDR on the conferment of medals of freedom and titles of emulation on combatants and national heroes:

Based on the resolution of the people's representatives—from throughout the country—of the congress of 2 December 1975, by the appointment of the president of the LPDR, on the outstanding achievements and precious heroic deeds of the cadres, combatants, and people in combat operations safeguarding the sovereignty of Na Bonoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province, and on recommendation No 246/NDM [National Defense Ministry] dated 9 March 1988 of the national defense minister, with unanimous approval of the SPC Standing Committee and the Council of Ministers, the president of the LPDR issues the following decree:

Article 1: Confer the first-class medal of freedom and title of national hero on 22 units and 15 comrades.

Article 2: Confer the second-class medal of freedom and the title of emulation combatant on 58 comrades according to the attached list.

Article 3: This decree is effective on the date it is signed. The organizations concerned are authorized to meet to correctly comply with this decree in an honorable and timely manner.

[Dated] Vientiane, 12 March 1988

[Signed] Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR

The following is the decree of the national defense minister:

The Peaceful, Independent, Unified, and Socialist LPDR

No 252-NDM, the National Defense Ministry

Decree of the national defense minister on the conferment of medals of valor and the awarding of the title of valiant units:

Based on the resolution of the national defense minister's 7 March 1988 meeting on commendations, on the outstanding achievements and precious heroic deeds of the units in the combat operations safeguarding the sovereignty of Na Bonoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province, and on the letter of recommendation from Boten battlefield No 01 dated 1 March 1988, with the unanimous approval of the national defense minister and the Army General Political Department, the national defense minister of the LPDR issues the following decree:

Article 1: Confer the first-class medal of valor and the title of valiant unit on 27 units according to the attached list.

Article 2: This decree is effective on the date it is signed. The organizations concerned are authorized to meet to correctly implement it in a honorable and timely manner.

[Dated] 10 March 1988

[Signed] General Khamtai Siphandon, minister of national defense of the LPDR

Kaysone Phomvihan Speech

BK130955 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Speech by Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the LPDR, delivered at 13 March mass rally in Vientiane—recorded]

[Text] Respected Presidium of the meeting and beloved compatriots and combatants:

On behalf of the LPRP Central Committee and the LPDR Council of Ministers, I would like to pay our wholehearted tribute to the heroic units, heroes, emulation combatants, representatives of the units in the People's Armed Forces, services, and localities, and representatives of the heroic Boten District for making noble contributions to the victory in Boten District, thereby securely defending the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of our nation and our people's cause in building the country in peace. [applause]

I request you comrades to convey the warm greetings of our party and state to our compatriots and combatants throughout the country. [applause]

I would like to express our wholehearted tribute to all foreign guests who are attending the ceremony to celebrate our victory today. [applause]

In particular, we would like to express our profound gratitude to those cadres, combatants, and compatriots who have gallantly made sacrifices to defend the country, thereby contributing to the defense of peace and stability in Southeast Asia; and we would like to convey our warm greetings and extremely intimate affection to all cadres, combatants, and civilians wounded while fulfilling your esteemed duties. [applause]

Beloved compatriots and combatants, the victory in Boten District is a brilliant historical event in our people's struggle to defend our country and to build socialism. It testifies to the political growth and the correct, sharp, and creative tactical and strategic leadership of our party. It has proved the steadfastness of the LPDR. At the same time, it has also proved the spirit of profound patriotism and the love of socialism as well as the spirit of readiness to make sacrifices by our Army and people in the struggle for national independence and freedoms. Such a spirit was explicitly displayed. At a time when our country was faced with external threats and aggression, our people of all strata, ages, tribes, and religious beliefs regardless of their classes and political inclinations were united into a cohesive force to fight against the common enemies. This is the outstandingly excellent tradition of our nation. It is the strength ensuring victory for our cause of national defense and socialist construction.

With a sense of great elation and pride, our party and state would like to wholeheartedly hail the outstanding heroic deeds of our Armed Forces for holding aloft the revolutionary nature and heroic tradition of our nation by promptly and correctly identifying the enemies' schemes, for having the wisdom and clear-sightedness in organization the gallant posture, and for having the creative skills in carrying out attacks through numerous effective maneuvers, thereby scoring outstanding achievements, and for closely coordinating the combat with the struggle in the political, international, and legal fields and with public opinion so as to score brilliant victories to deserve the title of being the heroic Army of the heroic multiethnic people. [applause]

We would like to wholeheartedly hail our compatriots of all tribal origins and services throughout the country as well as the people of Boten District for holding aloft the tradition of gallant combat solidarity and undauntedness of our nation by ardently and studiously rendering manpower and logistical assistance and material and moral support to the front line, thus clearly showing our all-round, national defense strength within the entire population. [applause]

We would like to express our profound gratitude to the fraternal Vietnamese and Cambodian parties, states, and peoples for giving strong support to the struggle of our people to defend our national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and for actively making preparations in all fields to render assistance to and to coordinate with us when necessary in accordance with the tradition of militant alliance and the spirit of the Treaties of Friendship and Cooperation. We would like to express our gratitude to the Soviet Union, the other fraternal socialist countries, and friends all over the world for rendering wholehearted support to our cause of national defense and socialist construction and to our just struggle to defend our independence and sovereignty in Boten District. [applause]

We would like to wholeheartedly hail the Thai people of all strata and classes and the Thai political circles, particularly the brotherly northeastern I-San people for uniting, cooperating, and coordinating with our people in the common struggle to preserve the neighborly and brotherly relations of friendship between the Lao and Thai peoples by checking together the scheme of the reactionary forces in trying to create an atmosphere of tension and hostility between the peoples in both countries. [applause]

We would like to hail a number of figures in Thai political circles for understanding the situation and working with us to find measures to end the clashes which caused an unnecessary bloodbath between the Lao and Thai peoples. [applause]

We sincerely express our thanks to the UN general secretary for paying attention to the incident in Boten District and making constructive contributions to solving the problem through peaceful means. [applause]

Beloved compatriots and combatants, from the fighting to defend our independence and sovereignty in Boten District this time, we must draw numerous useful lessons for our people's cause of national defense and socialist construction. We have a strong desire for peace so that we can heal the wounds of war and reconstruct our country. It is the common desire of the peoples in this region and all over the world to have peace so that they can build a plentiful and happy life, build civilization and progress for mankind, and forge mutual friendship among the nations. The facts have proved that to translate this just and lofty desire into reality, we must constantly maintain high vigilance and resolutely resist the scheme of annexation, the armed provocation, and the aggression launched by the imperialist forces and international reactionaries. This is because these elements still remain strong militarily and economically and extremely obdurate in maintaining their strategic scheme.

The struggle in Boten District clearly proves that once our national independence and sovereignty are threatened, we are unable to consolidate peace and stability and the international reactionaries will further pursue their scheme of undermining peace, kindling a war, and launching aggression. To safeguard our national independence and sovereignty and to contribute to defending peace and stability in this region, we must further enhance and raise the revolutionary spirit and heroic tradition of our nation to a higher degree, persevere to fulfill the two strategic tasks, and strive to build the consolidated national strength both in the political and socioeconomic spheres and to create a sense of all-round national defense and close alliance among the masses. This is because if the main forces of the revolution are not strong enough, they will not be able to compel the opposite side to abandon the policy of using force and to turn to the negotiating table to solve the problem of mutual relations through peaceful means. To do this, strategic and tactical (?guidance) must be correctly and creatively applied. We must adhere to the strategy and must be tactically smooth, skillful, and creative. We must clearly identify friends and foes. We must maintain a high sense of responsibility and must maintain a sense of alertness toward any developments so we will be able to securely safeguard our independence and sovereignty. But we must not drive the opposite side into a dead-end position, thus forcing them into committing desperately adventurous acts. We must know how to mobilize the consolidated national and international strength in various fields, such as the military, political, diplomatic, public opinion, and legal fields, both from our side and friends. We must clearly understand the enemies and know how to take advantage of the rifts within the ranks of the opposite side to encircle the ultrarightist reactionaries with a view to obstructing them from escalating the armed clashes. At the same time, we must know how to employ new, effective forms of struggle and must never rely only on worn-out tactics. We must know how to attack and how to score victories.

All this is the continuation and application of our experience accumulated from the national liberation struggle to the new situation, thus resulting in winning a practical victory for our side. That is, we have managed to securely safeguard our national independence and sovereignty and to promptly check the adventurous acts of the reactionary forces, thereby actively contributing to defending peace and stability in this region. [applause]

Beloved compatriots and combatants, we have scored a brilliant victory in Boten District. The sacred and esteemed land of our nation has been securely safeguarded. The brotherly relations between the Lao and Thai peoples have been restored. Peace and stability in this region have further been consolidated. The scheme of the reactionary forces to instigate confrontation and escalation of armed clashes between Laos and Thailand has been painfully smashed.

On this occasion, once again our party and state reiterate our consistent stand. That is, we will do our utmost to contribute to building Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, and cooperation and to contribute actively to safeguarding world peace and to preventing a nuclear holocaust. We always desire to broaden and strengthen the Lao-Thai ties of friendship on the basis of the two joint Lao-Thai communiques signed in January and April 1979. We will absolutely never allow any armed clashes to occur along the borderline of the two countries for the sake of the just and lasting interests of both countries. We stand ready to normalize relations between the Indochinese countries and the ASEAN countries. We stand ready to broaden the existing relations with ASEAN and other (?Asian) countries sharing mutual benefits with us in this region on the basis of the respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, nonaggression, equality, mutual benefits, and peaceful coexistence. We are of the view that [the opposite side] should change their views and pursue a realistic policy toward this region. The act of using force to compel other nations to capitulate and of pursuing a policy of expansionism against other countries, which runs counter to the trend of developments of the epoch and to their own just interests and those of the other countries in this region, is now outmoded. Such a wrong line of political thinking cannot be realized by any military victory.

To triumphantly implement the resolutions adopted at the fourth party congress and the fifth resolution of the party Central Committee, the party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers call on the entire party, Army, and people to hold aloft the spirit of patriotism and the love of socialism, to further enhance revolutionary tradition and national pride, to resolutely overcome

all difficulties to victoriously fulfill the two strategic tasks, and to heighten vigilance to stand ready to smash all subversive schemes of the imperialists and reactionaries. We must continue to turn to, closely associate with, and build the grass roots into a firm and strong entity in all fields; further enhance the unity and reconciliation among the multiethnic people; promote revolutionary posture; mobilize the patriotic and socialist emulation campaigns throughout the country; promote production; build and develop the economy, culture, education, and public health; and build a firm field position for national defense and public security maintenance work at the grass-roots level. All this is aimed at translating the objectives of the six programs outlined by the fourth party congress into reality.

Imbued with our legitimate pride and elation over the Boten District victory and with the spirit to further enhance the Boten District victory, let us determinedly promote the revolutionary movement in a vigorous and thorough manner so as to score yet greater, new victories.

Let our entire party, Army, and people studiously march forward to resolutely and securely defend our country and to successfully build it into a socialist state. [applause]

I would like to end now. Thank you. [applause]

Party Paper Hails Victory of Boten Battle

BK151113 Vientiane KPL in English
0858 GMT 15 Mar 88

["Editorial: PASASON Hails Victory of Boten Battle"—KPL headline]

[Text] Vientiane, March 15 (OANA-KPL)—PASASON today editorially hails the victory of Boten battle front, calling it a triumph of the Lao Army and people who have exhibited throughout sixty days of fierce battle exemplary heroic deeds in their endeavour to safeguard the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation. The leading paper PASASON speaks of the exploits of the army and people of Boten District, Sayaboury Province in connection with the 20,000 strong rally in Vientiane on Sunday 13, 1988 to acclaim the heroes of the Boten battle front.

The battle at the border in the vicinity of Lao Boten District and Thai Chat Trakan District ended following a cease-fire agreement between the two countries' military delegations on February 17, 1988.

The paper points out that the armed confrontation started due to the execution of dark designs of pan-Thaist policy by some bad elements in Thailand incited by international reaction. The intention behind this military exercise was to openly and illegally annex the western part of Boten District in which tens of thousands of troops and modern war machinery were deployed. Such deployment of naked force was aimed at trampling on the Lao people's feeling and dowsing their fervent patriotism.

However, the paper points out, having constantly been guided by the party and state, the local army and people of Boten District who are filled with a strong national heroic tradition, valiantly strived to the point the enemy, was checked. The opposite side suffered thousands of casualties, lost considerable materials including war planes, two Thai pilots were captured.

The victory scored, the editorial of PASASON adds, was the result of the apt application of force at the battle front and the use of diplomcy. This forced the opposite side to accept the Lao proposal the settlement of the border issue by the means of negotiations.

The victories at the Boten battle were the victory of the heroic Lao nationhood, the heroic Lao Army, the result of our efforts to be independent and self-sufficient and the strong will to fulfill our revolutionary tasks.

The paper further attributes the victory to the judicious leadership of the party led by General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan on the one hand, and to the close unity among the entire Lao people, the will to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the national [as received] of the combatant and people in Boten, on the other. Out of this Boten battle, the paper adds, due to their noble exploits a number of individual combatants and armed units, were decorated with the highest courageous medals of distinction. This state of affairs was a matter of jubilation and pride for the whole nation.

The paper also attributes the victory to the active contribution of the peace loving world people, including progressive and justice loving Thai people who want to safeguard the long standing good neighbourly relations as spelled out in the 1979 Lao-Thai joint communiques.

The paper concludes that the Lao Army and people, however, need to raise their vigilance and further their noble deeds borne out of the Boten battle so as to continue implementing the two strategic tasks—socialist building and defense of the Lao motherland.

Briefs

Soviet Gifts

Vientiane, March 13 (KPL)—The hand-over ceremony of USSR gifts for the State Archives Department, under the Council of Ministers, was held on March 9. The gifts from the Archives Department of the USSR Council of Ministers were presented within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed on May 15, 1987 between the two departments. The gifts included air conditioners, vacuum cleaners, Russian character typewriters, humidity and temperature thermometers. The gifts were

handed over by Vladimir Andreyevich Ratanev, official of the Soviet Embassy, in charge of cultural, scientific and technical work. Khamdeng Lasasima, head of the State Archives Department under the Council of Ministers of the Lao PDR, received the gifts. [Summary] *[Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 13 Mar 88 BK]*

Cooperation With France

Vientiane, March 14 (KPL)—A three-year cooperation programme on architecture and construction between Laos and France was signed here on March 12 between Seun Phetsanghan, deputy-minister of construction and Marc Menguy, French ambassador to Laos. Under this programme, France will organize field studies and traning courses for Lao personnel. France is also to supply Laos with short and intermediate term experts. Scholarships will be given to Lao teachers and students. In addition, France will provide general didactic materials and equipment including those for laboratory. The two sides will elaborate one and two year cooperation projects on specific objectives and methods of execution. Lao side, in this connection, has agreed upon exempting duties and import taxes on imported items for the projects, as well as exempting taxes on the personal effects of French experts and teachers. Khemphon Phouipaseut, minister of construction, and other senior technicians concerned were also present at the ceremony. [Text] *[Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 14 Mar 88 BK]*

Philippines

150 Nationals Evacuated From Tehran

HK151035 Hong Kong AFP in English 1019 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Manila, March 15 (AFP)—The Philippines is evacuating about 150 Filipinos from Tehran, which has come under renewed attack from Iraqi missiles, the Foreign Department said said Tuesday.

Sixty-five Filipinos working in the Iranian capital and 35 family members were being evacuated, Foreign Department spokeswoman Trora Tolentino said in a radio broadcast.

About 50 Filipino women married to Iranians were also being evacuated with their children, she added.

Mrs Tolentino did not say whether they would be flown back to the Philippines or transferred to another part of Iran.

She said there were about 500 Filipinos in Iran.

The Philippine Embassy in Baghdad has alerted some 5,000 Filipino workers in Iraq to the possibility they might also be evacuated, Mrs Tolentino said.

"Our embassy there has already identified an evacuation center that is northwest of Baghdad where they can be moved. But as of now they have not started moving out," she added.

Manglapus Views Presence of U.S. Bases

BK151127 Quezon City RPN 9 Television in English 1030 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] A Philippine-U.S. review of the treaty covering U.S. bases in the country has been put off until April to allow more time for preparations. The review was earlier set for 23 March. Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, in baring the new schedule, also told reporters after (?a planning session) for the talks that the government believed U.S. aid linked to the bases compared unfavorably to that given to other countries and would have to be increased. More than 17,000 U.S. servicemen are stationed at Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, America's two largest overseas installations. The U.S. contends they are important to counter Soviet bases in Vietnam and provide security for all of Southeast Asia.

Meantime, speaking earlier today, Secretary Manglapus said there seemed to be little support in the region for the U.S. argument that the bases are necessary to the defense of Asian countries.

Compensation 'Foremost' Issue

HK151209 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0700 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus has reaffirmed that the compensation issue or financial aspect will be the foremost issue in the coming review of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. military bases agreement. Secretary Manglapus made this statement but refused to give details on the amount the Philippine government would ask.

[Begin recording in English] [Reporter] The bases review, when will this be held?
[Manglapus] It will probably be after Holy Week. We want to get over the holiday syndrome.
[Reporter] Sir, how is the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] proposal, the membership bid?
[Manglapus] You mean the Mitra proposal? It remains under study and it is an important action, but it is not yet completed. [as heard]
[Reporter] Sir, is there a timetable for this study?
[Manglapus] No, not necessarily.
[Reporter] Sir, is it true that you have been quoted by Jiji Press as having said that the U.S. bases have no use here in the Philippines?
[Manglapus] Even the Department of Defense has said that for internal defense, they are not really physically and directly relevant.
[Reporter] Our defense?
[Manglapus] To our internal defense.
[Reporter] How about economics?
[Reporter] Where does the government's position stand?

[Manglapus] Well, I presume that the defense department has said so. Secretary Ramos has repeatedly said that for internal defense....
[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]
[Manglapus] Yes.
[Reporter] But will you consider the ideas of the other members of the ASEAN on the peace and stability of the region?
[Manglapus] No, as I said in the interview in the JIJI PRESS which you are referring to, I have not heard any ASEAN country agreeing with the United States that the bases are necessary, except, except certain [passage indistinct].
[Reporter] But do you expect them to make a stand during the renegotiation?
[Manglapus] Yes, our position here has to be based on reality, and the reality is that these bases are not really here for us because they are here for the United States.
[Reporter] Are we asking more aid or assistance?
[Manglapus] Certainly, we are going to include that.
[Reporter] How much is it?
[Manglapus] I don't have any figures yet.
[Reporter] That would be used as rentals, not aid?
[Manglapus] No, I cannot give a comment on that. [end recording]

That was the interview with Secretary Manglapus on the coming bases review.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1053 GMT on 15 March, in a similar report on the Manglapus interview, adds: "A few hours after Mr Manglapus spoke, some leftist students picketed the U.S. Embassy here, demanding the bases' removal and an end to 'U.S. imperialism.' They were dispersed by riot police, who made no arrests."]

Chronicle Interviews Ambassador to U.S.

HK151431 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 88 p 16

[Interview by Amando Doronila and Marites Sison with Emmanuel Pelaez, Philippine Ambassador to the United States—location, time not given—questions in boldface as published]

[Text] **What issues are going to be addressed in the talks over the U.S. military bases?**

According to the memorandum of understanding of 1979 under which this review is going to take place, the main topics which may be taken up will be a review of the objectives, second, implementation, third, compensation and fourth, duration. Of course you can add other items in that agenda. I am not in a position to tell you just what is in that agenda that is being drawn up by the committee under Secretary Manglapus which is composed of Senate, House and DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] officials.

What do you think are the most important issues that ought to be addressed by the Government?

It seems that the Senate is giving priority to a clarification of the nuclear matter and I suppose that should be taken up. Another thing, of course, compensation must be reviewed. Duration seems to be academic because the Government is on record that it will respect the Military Bases Agreement until the expiration of the treaty in September, 1991. They may review some questions like the security of the bases and also labor, I suppose, will be reviewed. Jurisdiction, enforcement of the laws, these are the usual things that come under the heading of implementation.

What is the Philippine Government really after? Bigger compensation?

Better ask Secretary Manglapus. But I understand that it is almost certain that there will be bigger compensation. Certainly much more than the average of $180 million a year that has been a commitment for the past five years. As a matter of fact, this year all in all we received $358 million, although that cannot be all ascribed to bases' compensation. But there is an assurance in the United States that they will increase the level of compensation.

Given the budgetary restraints in the U.S. and their own deficit problems, how realistic is it to expect a reasonable increase in compensation for the bases?

I think they know the sentiment here and they also know that if you gauge the importance of these bases relative to other bases elsewhere, the bases here in the Philippines should have priority and therefore they can reassign different amounts to different bases.

What about the possibility of getting the funds from Pentagon?

My own view is that we should separate any assistance that we can expect from the Americans from the bases because there is today an initiative in the Senate and the House of the U.S. Congress where they are proposing that America lead a consortium of countries where the level of assistance should be at least $1 billion more than current levels. And if that is so and if other countries would contribute the target would be at least $2 billion a year for the next five years.

You're talking of the Mini-Marshall Plan?

That is the Mini-Marshall Plan and it is being seriously considered. I am personally of the view, and this is not the position of the Department of Foreign Affairs, that whatever we can get from the bases' compensation should be for military purposes but insofar as the economic recovery and the social development program is concerned, we should accept the offer of these very influential members of the Senate and the House from the United States to put together a Mini-Marshall Plan.

This was done in the case of Indonesia, Turkey, Greece, Israel and other places where assistance was given not necessarily because of the bases but because the country needed it. And there is at least a fifty-fifty chance. There is also a lot of interest in ASEAN, in EEC countries and in Japan to join hands with the United States to ask the Philippines just what it needs for recovery and they will try to meet those needs.

Such a recovery program would mean not only compensation or rather financial assistance but also a concerted effort to help us reduce our debt obligations. also we should push for more trade, more entry of our products into American, Japanese and European markets. It should be a combination of these things, not just compensation.

Congressman Stephen Solarz has been pressing the campaign for a Mini-Marshall Plan. How realistic is it really in achieving its goals?

Well, if it was done before it can be done now. It all depends just how much importance the United States and the other countries give to the preservation of democracy here. If we come out and support that plan it will have greater chances of success but if we just sit back and say "Well, let's just see," then we, ourselves, would be party to blame if it does not succeed.

Do you think that an immediate and an unconditional implementation of the anti-nuclear provision of the Constitution can be done?

As far as storage of weapons in Philippine territory is concerned, I think there's no problem there. That can be taken up in the bases' talks and there is already a precedent in the case of Spain where they have said that there will be no storage of nuclear weapons in Spanish territory. I don't see why that could not be done here. As a matter of fact, during the negotiations over the bases in 1976, the United States offered to put into the memorandum a provision that there should be no nuclear weapons in Philippine soil. And somehow when President Marcos took over the negotiations we forgot that.

But I am certain that there is no storage of nuclear weapons in Philippine soil, or even in Philippine seas. If at all, there would be nuclear weapons in submarines or in naval vessels. But as far as that is concerned the U.S. has made it a policy that it will neither confirm nor deny, no matter what country asks her. And if we move that way then we are heading for a collision course and if you move to a collision course you will have a situation like that in New Zealand where we would end all our alliances with the United States.

Well that thing has happened to New Zealand....

Yes, except that New Zealand did not have any insurrection. New Zealand didn't need military assistance. New Zealand's economy did not depend on the economic benefits of any bases when the U.S. ended the military alliance with New Zealand. I am convinced that the U.S. would rather stand by that principle of not admitting or denying whether there are nuclear weapons in its naval vessels. If it agrees for us to inspect or for the Americans to tell us, they would have to agree all over—in Japan, in Spain, in everything and this would certainly weaken their nuclear capability vis-a-vis the potential enemy.

Will that weaken the force of the constitutional provision?

The constitutional provision is conditional. It is consistent with national interests. Part of the records of the Constitutional Convention is a resolution which was unanimously passed by the convention giving an interpretation to the provision and it said that that meant that the Executive would have the first right to determine whether total banning is consistent with national interest. My own belief is that at this moment it would be inconsistent with national interests for us to drive our relations with the United States to a breaking point.

You were saying a while ago that in the case of New Zealand it had no insurgency and it had no serious economic problems are you implying that the central consideration in the bases review is economic?

No, the central consideration is the national interests, national security. Economic is part of it. For instance, if we were to terminate our defense arrangements with the United States which consist of the Mutual Defense Treaty, the Military Bases Agreement and the Military Assistance Pact, and if we tell them, "Look, you've got to get out," then okay they have no further reason to maintain a military alliance with us in which case we will be alone.

Being alone, the first thing that will happen is, in the Western world in Europe, U.S., Japan, the perception will be that we are moving towards the communist orbit. So your expected investment of capital will dry up. We need investments to create jobs. The priority of the national interests today is food for the hungry, for the poor and you cannot produce this simply by telling the U.S., "Get out of the Philippines" because the U.S. is one of the sources of our assistance.

Are we afraid that we will suffer the same fate as New Zealand if we decide to make the nuclear ban absolute?

I would not say it's because of fear. I am saying that looking at these precedents we can follow the Spanish formula. What is the necessity of banning vessels with nuclear weapons? These vessels land all over the world. Now what is the compelling reason for us to follow the example of New Zealand? I know our intentions could be

nationalistic but in the perception of the Western world we are going communist and then that means it will be harder for us to get assistance.

Given that there is a continuing accommodation between the USSR and the U.S. for the dismantling of nuclear weapons don't you think that in three or four years the importance of the U.S. bases here will be reduced?

Why don't we make a demand for the withdrawal of the Soviet and U.S. bases in the region? Can you think of a condition where we tell the U.S. to get our and we say nothing about the bases in Cam Ranh Bay? Wouldn't you want to take a broader picture of this than just feeding on one's concept that they must go? I would say if these people don't want the bases, they must make it a bilateral withdrawal.

Then why are you not responding to the Gorbachev Vladivostok initiative in which he said that any move by the U.S. to reduce its military presence in the Philippines will not go unresponded?

Why aren't the nationalists doing so?

Why isn't the Philippine Government doing so?

At this moment it is not yet right. These things have to go. They have made the first step in the peace process by signing of the INF treaty. Even the INF treaty is still subject of debate in the United States. It is also the subject of debate in the Presidium.

If I were of the opinion that these bases have to go today, I will always say not only these bases but also Russian bases must go. We still have the problem of Vietnam in Kampuchea. We still have the problem of Russia in Afghanistan. The climate of peace has to grow and that will come. I personally believe that in 10 years this whole region will be neutral because I believe that the process of peace will progress.

So we'll wait for 10 years before we can ask the bases to go?

We can ask. Another thing, President Aquino has already said that we will respect the bases agreement until the termination of its term and it was on that basis that she was elected. Why press today a point that is not needed to relieve poverty and to find more food and more employment? It is nice for us to say "Take out the bases." What do you do with 60,000 to 70,000 people who are employed in the bases now?

Is it the prevailing sentiment now within Government that we will concede that the ban is not absolute?

I think that is the opinion of the Department of Justice.

Well the Chinese are not pressing the point either. There have been visits by American warships to China.

That's it. Japan has a naval base. Spain. Somebody said, "Let's adopt the Spanish formula." Well and good. They have the bases and Spain is satisfied with the assurance of the American state that there should be no storage of nuclear weapons in Spanish territory. Well that's good enough for Spain. I think it should be good enough for us.

What is the perception in the U.S. business community about the Philippines two years after the revolution?

Uncertainty.

Why?

Because what comes out of Manila is uncertainty. There is no response, we have not told them what we really want.

Has political stability something to do with that?

In the minds of business, it is the insurgency that is uppermost, whether there is national security.

But we have had insurgency on a worst level during the Marcos years especially before 1983 and the fact was that the volume of investments that came to the Philippines was rather large. So insurgency has apparently nothing to do with it.

That's correct. During the time of Marcos, during the height of MNLF attacks more than a hundred thousand people were killed. That was never in the papers. During the time of Marcos the press was controlled whereas here everything that happens is reported to the perception is in the U.S. is not necessarily based on what is happening. It is based on reports in the media. Now the reports of the media are carried very widely so at that particular time the perception was that Marcos way very much in control.

Is the Pentagon happy with the leadership of Cory Aquino?

Let's put it this way—Armitage, who was the leading critic a year ago, publicly stated yesterday that there is an improvement in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. I think I wouldn't say happy because perhaps they would want the President to be more agressive. But I think they are satisfied.

So they are not really thinking of alternative leadership within the term of the Aquino Administration?

As far as the U.S. is concerned, there is nobody else. The presidency of Cory is essential to all their plans.

U.S. officials have been saying that ASEAN supports the retention of the bases here. The ASEAN has never come out publicly.

Publicly. You see your own statement there gives the answer. They have not come out publicly. But we have consultations with ASEAN. Thailand and Singapore have come out publicly and Indonesia has come out for an international government group for the Philippines. In our representations in Washington, the Indonesian ambassador has talked to American authorities and said Indonesia favors an effective rescue package for the Philippines but they have not said they are against the bases. Japan is very much for the bases, of course.

We'd like to get the view from Washington, how has Washington been preparing for the bases review and what is the U.S. government's primordial concern with regard to the bases review?

Well they want to get over the bases review as quickly as possible and hope that there would be much change. But for almost two years now, they have really been beefing up the economic aspect. Because one of the first things I did when I went to Washington was to tell them that the bases should open up more economic opportunities for Filipinos and they have started.

Government Urged To Announce Stand on Bases

HK150805 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 15 Mar 88 pp 1, 19

[By Tony S. Bergonia with additional reports from Ed Perpena and Chay Florentino]

[Text] A new umbrella group of oppositionists has urged the Aquino Administration to reveal its position on whether or not the United States military bases in the country should be retained.

In other developments:

—Ten congressmen yesterday batted for the development of a self-reliant defense capability, a move interpreted by their colleagues as calling for the immediate dismantling of the U.S. bases.

—The start of the review of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement [MBA], initially scheduled for March 23, will be postponed to some time in April.

Former Labor Minister Blas Ople—a prominent figure in the recently formed UNLAD-BAYAN [Nation Movers-National Movement for Economic Reconstruction] movement, led by business mogul Enrique Zobel—said yesterday: "We will insist on clarity of position on the U.S. bases. We have the right to ask where we are to go from here and for the President to tell us where we go from here."

Speaking at the weekly Kapihan sa Maynila [Manila Coffee shop] news forum, he admitted that UNLAD-BAYAN is still divided on the bases issue. Zobel is reportedly in favor of retaining the bases "under certain conditions" while others are against it, including Ople.

The government has maintained silence on its stance on the bases but political leaders belonging to the ruling coalition have revealed their positions on the issue.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., in the same forum, said the PDP-Laban [Pilipino Democratic Party-Lakas ng Bayan—Strength of the Nation] is definitely against the retention of the bases. He said the removal of the bases is "part of our ideological framework and stance."

Pimentel added the PDP-Laban is also for the strict implementation of the anti-nuclear provision in the Constitution.

The congressmen's proposal for developing a self-reliant defense capability, contained in House Resolution No. 608 coincided with the 41st anniversary of the MBA which expires in 1991.

At the House of Representatives, the 10 proponents of self-reliant defense were Representatives Anna Dominique Coseteng, (Kaiba [Kababaihan Para sa Inang Bayan—Women for the Motherland], Quezon City), Oscar Rodriguez (PDP-Laban, Tarlac), Venancio Garduce (PnB [Partido ng Bayan-People's Party], Samar), Gregorio Andoiana (PnB, North Cotabato), Antonio Aquino (PDP-Laban, Quezon City), Jose Ramirez (Laban, Samar), Oscar Santos (Laban, Quezon)- Bonifacio Gillego (NUCD [National Union of Christian Democrats], Sorsogon), Juanito Camasura (Laban, Davao del Sur) and Florencio Abad (LP [Liberal Party], Batmes).

Rodriguez and his colleagues, pointing out that the Armed Forces relies heavily on the U.S. for the greater part of its logistics and other needs, then called for the formation of a congressional defense research and planning committee to undertaken studies toward the development of the country's self-reliant mechanism.

On the postponement of the start of MBA review, foreign office sources said, was done "In anticipation of the complexities that may arise" from the Moro National Liberation Front's bid for membership in the powerful Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC].

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus is reportedly preoccupied with preparations for the March 23 OIC conference in Amman, Jordan, which will decide on the MNLF membership bid. Should the MBA review proceed as originally scheduled, the would have only one day to prepare for its opening.

The bases talks which will be held in Manila should begin before Manglapus' departure for China on April 14, sources said. From China, where he will accompany

the President, Manglapus will proceed to Japan in acceptance of the invitation extended by Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno. While there, he is expected to call on Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Sources said the preparatory committee which meets today is expected to take up the issues of compensation, criminal jurisdiction, duration and the socio-economic costs of keeping the bases.

With barely three weeks to go before April, the committee is expected to work double time to firm up the Philippine position in time for the review.

U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt who left March 3 for consultations with Washington, is expected back in Manila March 19 at the earliest.

Columnist on MNLF-Bases Retention Link

HK100957 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 10 Mar 88 p 5

["Between the Eyes" column by Francisco de Leon: "The MNLF Bid Is to the U.S. Advantage"]

[Text] The furor caused by the MNLF threat to join the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] as a regular member is good grist for the United States' bid to extend its bases in the country beyond 1991.

The Philippines is gravitating into a crisis which may need American dollars and bullets to match the OIC-armed MNLF if the situation gets out of hand. It may bring into play the mutual defense agreement where an attack against the Philippines would be considered an attack against the U.S.

The U.S. has conspicuously been silent on the MNLF crisis, obviously happy about how the marbles are going the American way.

Speaker Mitra's proposal at the Monday meeting at the Manila Hotel for the Philippine Government to apply for OIC membership is not the best solution to the MNLF problem.

It is too late to apply for OIC membership barely two weeks before the Jordan meeting. Many believe that a formal Philippine application would only lead those who are undecided about the issue to support the MNLF application for OIC membership.

A country does not join a group of nations at the spur of the moment. The OIC will only see through our instant plan to outbid the MNLF, which has long been meeting with the group as an observer. If we apply for membership at this time, we risk the possibility of being rejected.

President Aquino's mediation was all that was needed to end the strike of Manila public school teachers.

The teachers were not asking for pay increases or additional working benefits. They were asking for the prompt payment of their allowances. Those who get very little in their salaries need them on time. Any delay forces employees to resort to loan sharks.

Public administrators should remember Magsaysay's policy to give more in law those who have less in life. He endeared himself to the masses and resolved the Huk insurgency.

President Aquino placed her relatives on the spot when she denied she had authorized the merger of all administration parties into one ruling political group.

Her brother, Rep. Jose Cojuangco and her brother-in-law, Paul Aquino, president of the Laban [Lakas ng Bayan-People's Power] and Lakas [Lakas ng Banga-Power of the Nation] parties, have been holding political caucuses in Fort Santiago and in their residences, in efforts to organize a single majority party called Laban ng Pilipino or Lapi [Struggle of the Filipino] for short. It was supposed to be President Aquino's political party. It seeks to dissolve the multiple parties which formed a coalition in the snap election campaign to throw their weight against the then powerful Marcos and his KBL surrogates.

Unfortunately, the Lapi failed to attract the top Administration leaders and the KBLs who looked suspiciously at the political moves of Mrs Aquino's relatives.

Senate President Jovito Salonga saw the move as a way to isolate his Liberal Party while KBL Rep. Salvador Escudero, Marcos Cabinet member, could not believe in the sincerity of the invitation and opted to remain with the opposition. It turned out that the merger initiatives of Cojuangco and Aquino were not cleared with Malacanang.

The Commission on Appointments, led by the Senate big guns, has decided to flex its muscles and forced Malacanang to submit for confirmation Gen. Renato de Villa's appointment as chief of staff.

Usually docile members of the commission questioned the validity of the President's claim that de Villa's appointment as chief of staff did not need legislative confirmation.

USSR 'Prepared' To Cut Pacific Forces

HK141141 Quezon City MALAYA in English 14 Mar 88 pp 1, 7

[By Ellen Tordesillas]

[Excerpt] The Soviet Union is prepared to reduce the number of its nuclear weapons-carrying ships and submarines in the Pacific and Indian Oceans if the United States removes its military bases in the Philippines, Soviet Minister-Counsellor Alexandre P. Losyukov said recently.

Losyukov's statement is the first specific answer to what the Soviet Union would do if the US removed Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base after the expiration of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement in 1991.

Losyukov did not reveal the size of the Soviet naval force in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific but the U.S. Information Service [USIS] said in one of its information brochures that of the 375 Soviet submarines, more than one-third are deployed in the Pacific. [passage omitted]

Manglapus To Visit Japan 17-22 April
HK120525 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0500 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus is scheduled to visit Japan from 17 to 22 April this year, at the invitation of Japanese Foreign Minister Suzuki Uno. The invitation was formally extended by Minister Uno to Manglapus during Japanese Prime Minister Noburo Takeshita's official visit to the country to attend the third ASEAN summit last year.

During his 6-day official visit to Japan, Manglapus is slated to meet with Prime Minister Noburo Takeshita, Minister Uno, and other top officials of the Foreign Ministry. They are expected to discuss Philippine-Japanese relations, including consular and labor issues.

New Japanese Ambassador Arrives
HK110725 Hong Kong AFP in English 0711 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Manila, March 11 (AFP)—Tsuneo Tanaka, the new Japanese ambassador to the Philippines, arrived here Friday to assume his post.

Mr Tanaka, who replaced Ambassador Kiyoshi Sumiya, told reporters on arrival that the Philippines was "one of the most important neighboring countries of Japan."

Colonel in Regional Command 3 Injured in Ambush
HK150933 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0700 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] A high-ranking official of the Armed Forces, Colonel Santiago Carangan, from the Region 3 Regional Command [Recom], was ambushed at 0200 GMT today at the junction of Olongapo and (Tagapad) Road, San Fernando, Pampanga. Here are the details from Pete Buluran:

[Begin recording] Colonel Santiago Carangan, R1 [as heard] of Recom 3, was ambushed in Olivas, Pampanga, while he was having his car fixed at Autoville. The car's plate number is CDN 555. He was in his car when the ambushers began shooting at him. Colonel Carangan was shot in the left leg, which doctors say may be amputated. Elements of the Pampanga PC are still looking for the two ambushers, who according to informers were dressed in the commonly used sleeveless undershirt. The assailants might still be in the vicinity of Autoville. Some military operatives from Camp Olivas are also assisting in the chase. [end recording]

Sparrows Kill Two Soldiers in Metro Manila *
HK140451 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Two soldiers, a PC Capital Regional Command member and an army trooper, were shot dead over the weekend in two separate places in Metro Manila by suspected sparrows of the New People's Army.

This developed as the Iloilo City Police launched a manhunt for the killers of Police Major Vicencio Andres, deputy chief of operations of the Regional Unified Command 6, who was slain Friday morning by an alleged NPA death squad in front of a school in Iloilo City.

Meanwhile in Vintar, Ilocos Norte, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos appealed anew to local officials to develop the areas previously infiltrated by the NPAs.

In San Juan, Metro Manila, agents of the PC Criminal Investigation Service [CIS] seized an arms cache during a raid last Saturday on the house of a suspected gunrunner.

Government Troops Attack 'NPA Plenum'
BK151112 Quezon City RPN 9 Television in English 1030 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Government forces have attacked an NPA plenum or gathering in Misamis Occidental. Military reports today said the soldiers launched an intensive air and ground assault that scattered the gathering somewhere in Concepcion Town mountains. The attack was the largest in the area and appeared to be a serious blow to the NPA.

The battle raged the other day until yesterday after the soldiers discovered the plenum. The air strike involved three B-28 propeller-driven planes and three helicopter gunships. Ground forces with small tanks followed up the air strike. The military counted 12 dead and 20 more bodies after the ground fighting. There were no military casualties reported.

Top Rebel Leader Killed in Nueva Ecija Raid
HK111413 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 10 Mar 88 p 7

[By Carlos Marquez Jr]

[Text] Lupao, Nueva Ecija—A suspected top communist leader was killed and four of his men were captured when Government troops swooped down on a suspected rebel hideout in a village here, the military said yesterday.

Col. Santiago Alino, PC provincial commander, identified the slain man only by his aliases, Ka [Comrade] Ver and Ka Lenny, said to be the head of the provincial operational command of the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA. The captured men were not identified.

Alino said the soldiers recovered two .38 caliber revolvers, two hand grenades, and subversive documents from the scene. He said the clash took place in Sitio Baybayabas, Barangay Balbaluga, at about 5:30 a.m. last Tuesday.

He said that a team of soldiers led by PC Lt Ronald Estelles and Lt Eduardo Soriano swooped down on a house where a group of rebels were still asleep.

Ka Ver was hit in the first volley of gunfire. His men fled through a creek leading to the boundary of the Pangasinan province, but the soldiers cornered four of them later.

Female NPA Leader, 5 Others Killed in Davao

HK150251 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] A ranking woman communist leader and five of her security men were killed in a gunbattle with government troops in (Narimud), Davao del Norte, over the weekend. Brigadier General Jose Cesar Capa, 6th Army Infantry Division Commander, said the government troops were on a routine patrol at Sitio Upper Titoy, San Vicente Town, when they chanced upon a group of NPA guerrillas. Killed were Teresita Masio, alias Ka Terry, commander of District 4 of NPA Front 3 and five of her security men. Capa said Masio was one of the most feared rebel commanders in central Mindanao. She was the head of the NPA's propaganda and collection unit in San Vicente. The troopers recovered the bodies of Masio and her five henchmen after a fierce l-hour gunbattle. Seized from them were l carbine rifle, a handset radio, a hand grenade, assorted medicine, and subversive documents.

Military Arrests 4 NPA for Killings

HK141449 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0800 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Excerpt] The Constabulary has arrested four of the 100 communist rebels who recently raided a police station in San Nicolas, Pangasinan, killing three policemen, one civilian, and one prisoner.

Captain Antonio Ayat, commander of 151st PC Company, said that the four were arrested yesterday when the passenger jeepney they were riding was positively identified by a witness as one of two vehicles used by the New People's Army in the police station raid. Aside from the five fatalities, two policemen and a foreman were wounded in the incident. [passage omitted]

Capture of NPA Rebel Shows CPP Rift

HK111249 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 11 Mar 88 p 7

[Text] The capture of a former top communist leader in Bacolod City Tuesday revealed a serious rift within the rebel movement, the military said yesterday.

Rivalries and ideological differences, the military added, have also divided the 27 members of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) Central Committee.

Latest Armed Forces intelligence reports said eight of the committee members were considered as "militarists" while 15 others were "conservatives." Four others maintained "unclear" positions on the committee's main strategy.

The reports added that the captured leader, Nemesio Dimafiles, had left the CPP Visayas Commission last August after an argument with its other officials and leaders of the Negros Island party committee, which he headed.

The CPP highest policy-making body replaced Dimafiles with former priest Francisco Fernandez, who headed the National Democratic Front (NDF) panel during the 60-day ceasefire negotiations in 1986.

The military said Dimafiles organized his own revolutionary movement, the Philippine Liberation Party, and its military arm, the Popular People's Liberation Army. He commanded about 300 armed men in the towns around the foothills of Mount Kalaon in Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental.

Dimafiles, described as a "staunch militarist," criticized the Visayas commission leadership for slowing down operations against government forces, the military said.

Dimafiles was the second ranking rebel leader to back out. The first was NDF member Napoleon Dojillo, who surrendered to the Government last year and denounced rebel atrocities and violations of human rights.

The military said militarists within the movement strictly adhere to the policy of armed struggle with a tendency to follow the Marxist Leninist theory of urban insurrection and violent tactics to grab state power.

Eight members of the CPP Central Committee, led by New People's Army (NPA) chieftain Romulo Kintanar, are considered by the military as militarists because of their activities, previous positions, notoriety, and regional base.

Most rebel leaders based in Mindanao and Eastern Visayas are said to be militarists.

The conservatives, on the other hand, believe in the Maoist struggle of protracted people's war by encircling the countryside before it goes to urban centers. Organizational and political work are given priority while many of its leaders are open for parliamentary struggle, the military said.

Among the conservatives are Luzon-based rebels like Rafael Baylosis, Jose Luneta, and Sotera Llamas, who favor united front building and lesser use of guns and violence.

They believe that violence should be used only when necessary to preserve mass support for the movement, the military said.

Dimafiles and four other suspected communist members are still detained at the PC-INP regional headquarters in Camp Gen. Martin Delgado in Iloilo City for interrogation.

Ongoing CPP 'Purge' Affecting Regional Units

HK151415 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 88 p 4

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] The continuing purge in the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) leadership has also affected the movement's regional structure, military intelligence authorities said yesterday.

At least three significant changes were monitored by the intelligence community during the last three months.

First, three territorial commission heads were replaced after setbacks suffered by the movement in their particular areas.

Second, the growing militancy in the leadership of the CPP central committee with the promotion of a Mindanao-based regional party committee head to the highest political body of the movement.

Third, the reassignment of a former CPP central committee member to a lower but bigger provincial party committee.

Intelligence officials said at least four territorial commissions were affected by the recent shake up in the CPP central committee. Only the National Urban Commission and the Northern Luzon Commission (NLC) remain intact, they said.

The two commissions were not touched because of continuing success of the movement's political and military operations in their respective jurisdictions, the military said.

Rebel strength grew in Northern Luzon, along with rebel political and military activities.

The Southern Luzon and the Visayas commissions were most affected by the revamp, intelligence reports said. Soltero Llamas, the Bicol regional party committee head, has been eased out as Southern Luzon Commission chairman by a veteran revolutionary, Jose Luneta, who also occupies higher seats in the CPP central committee, Political Bureau (Politburo) and the executive committee (Execom).

In the Visayas, Manuel Calizo has been replaced by the more radical Arturo Tabara as head of the Visayas Commission.

In Mindanao, the alleged head of the Mindanao Commission (Kommid), Benjamin de Vera, was eased out following disagreements with NPA chieftain Romulo Kintanar. De Vera was replaced by Salvador Bas, also a member of the central committee.

Kintanar, according to military intelligence, had accused De Vera of embezzling party funds, which were badly needed to organize political groups in the south. The Kommid also suffered setbacks with the arrest of top rebel leaders in the Zamboanga peninsula last year. The mushrooming of Alsa Masa and other vigilante groups in the Davao provinces and the loss of Surigao Norte to politicians and cult leaders who were basically anticommunist.

The leadership changes came after the rebels realized it was tactically wrong to blow up bridges in the Bicol region in September last year.

The capture of some top CPP leaders in the Visayas during the past two months and the split among CPP leaders in the Negros and Panay Island party committees were reportedly the cause of the leadership change in the region.

Conflicting Reports on Communist War Queried

HK141329 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 12 Mar 88 p 4

["In Touch" column by Paulynn Sicam: "Who Is Really Winning the War?"]

[Text] One of the newspapers yesterday reported the capture of "another top Communist Party Leader" and four others in Limay, Bataan. Eduardo Antonio Alias "Ka [comrade] Victor" or "Tatang" was reportedly Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] secretary for four Bataan towns.

The other day, the media reported the capture of Nemesio Dimafiles, alias "Kumander [commander] Iko," alleged CPP leader in Bacolod.

Last month, 20 top CPP leaders were captured by intelligence operatives in Metro Manila and Laguna. The rebel leaders who are from the Visayas hierarchy have an aggregate prize (on their head, that is) of P1.7 million.

Last October, an ailing Juanito Rivera, a suspected central committee member, was captured in Pampanga. Also last year, Bartolome Quizon, another CPP bigwig, was bagged.

In 1986, alleged CPP chairman Rodolfo Salas was captured as he emerged from the Philippine General Hospital where he had consulted a doctor.

These are only some of the obvious successes of the Government against the communist rebels. There have been many other reports of rebels captured in twos or fours, in encounters or dragnets meticulously laid out by intelligence operatives.

And then, of course, there was the final report on the one year rebel returnee and amnesty program. By the time the program ended on Feb. 29, Government reported 47,000 returnees, 4,000 of whom were bona fide New People's Army guerrillas.

And, speaking of the amnesty program, there is that intriguing report about NPA leader Fr. Frank Navarro, a Catholic priest in Surigao del Sur who, the Department of Social Services said, is in Cebu recuperating from a gunshot wound inflicted by his comrades who tried to stop him from beating the Feb. 29 deadline of the Government's amnesty offer.

So, is Government winning the war against the insurgents? With so many of its top leaders under custody, and thousands of its mass base returning to the fold of the law, has the back of the insurgency been broken?

If you read ANG BAYAN, [AB—the Nation] the official propaganda organ of the CPP, you'd think that things are going great as usual with the underground.

The January 1988 issue of AB felicitously reported "phemomenal" advances in the armed struggle. The number of Red fighters has increased from 7,000 in 1986 to 10,000 in 1987. In Mindanao, the AB editoral glowed, 15 tanks were "totally or partially destroyed by the NPA through sabotage and tactical offensives using landmines."

It reported that "the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] conceded it was clobbered by the revolutionary army in Northern Luzon." And, quoting AFP intelligence reports dated Jan. 20, 1988, the Government is supposed to have suffered 2,046 casualties and lost 1,073 firearms in 1987 alone.

The AB however did not quote AFP figures on the number of insurgents killed or captured and number of firearms recovered.

AB wrote of "armed peasant uprisings" in Negros and Northern Luzon: the "smashing of reactionary organs of reactionary political power in advanced guerrilla bases in Samar and the North." The CPP now boasts of "the willingness of many states to recognize at an opportune time the People's Revolutionary government" and the successful broadcasts of "Radio Sierra Madre."

It is, however, silent on the power struggle that has split its ranks and brought demoralization to its members.

So, is the NPA winning the war against the Government? With so many soldiers dying at the hands of the insurgents, has the national democratic revolution broken any new ground?

The Government's victories are by no way small. Information filtering from the underground indicate that the Visayas region is smarting from the loss of a large chunk of its leadership. Helping the government gain more ground is the reported split in the CPP leadership between the "militarists" who insist on hastening the revolutionary process through escalated violence, and the "conservatives" who would allegedly use violence with care so as not to alienate the mass base;

Still the rebels say they are winning. Curiously, the AFP seems to prefer to make it appear that the communists are winning. Whether this is true or not, the underdog posture is meant to work in favor of the military, at least in the short run. Every number added to the roster of rebels, every report of soldiers massacred means a bigger budget for the military, a bigger say in the Government's policies.

So, who is really winning the war? With the reportage on the conflict coming mainly from the propaganda mills of both the AFP and the CPP-NDF, I guess we'll never know. Until the final victory, that is.

Military Embarks on Arms Buildup Project

HK111011 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 11 Mar 88 p 8

[by Ma. Gertrude M. Chavez]

[Text] With a view to step-up its anti-insurgency campaign, the Armed Forces has embarked on a long-term and dynamic arms buildup to supplement its present defense capability, a top-ranking military official told BUSINESS WORLD.

He said the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] has 10 on-going projects under the Self-Reliant Defense Posture (SRDP) program. However, he identified only seven of these projects.

The SRDP program is a scheme to foster self-sufficiency in the manufacture of defense equipment in cooperation with the private sector.

The first of these projects is the M18 assault rifle project. The official said the M16 rifles is the basic weapon of the AFP.

The company commisioned to manufacture this weapon uses a technology based on a license and technical assistance agreements between the Philippines and Colt Industries, Inc. of the United States. For security purposes, he refused to disclose the name of the company contracted by the AFP.

The official said this project has long been completed with the delivery of roughly 170,000 rifles. However, the contract was extended to manufacture 50,000 more, due to a projected heat-up in the counter-insurgency campaign. The total project cost is placed at P130 million.

More convenient [subhead]

The second project is the armalite rifle project. This is a relatively new venture which incorporates modifications that were adopted to make it more convenient to the Filipino soldier.

The official noted that the company hired by the AFP to undertake the project has already delivered the license, equipment, and manufacturing devices to the AFP. Total project cost amounts to P18.5 million.

The third project is the production of the 60MM mortar ammunition. This was developed by the private sector through reverse engineering without the benefit of technology transfer.

Reverse engineering is a process of manufacturing a product wherein the local producer adopts the good features of an existing model and puts in new innovations using domestic technology.

The manufacturer of this ammunition has already made a total delivery of 300,000 rounds out of the 375,000 stated in the contract.

The manufacture of the rifle grenade is another project. Out of a contract volume of 385,000 rounds, the local producer has delivered 5,120 rounds for 1987.

Nearing completion [subhead]

For this year, the project is nearing completion since 87.2 percent of total contract volume was already met.

The AFP has also decided to add on its M79 grenade launchar. Roughly 15,120 rounds out of last year's volume of 32,000 rounds are already in the possession of the AFP. The ammunition has a per unit cost of P130 in 1988. However, a price increase to P338 per round was already submitted to the Department of National Defense. The mortar fuse project, on the other hand, has already yielded a total delivery of 305,000 (88.6 percent) out of a contracted volume of 340,450 fuzes. The mortar fuse is a point detonator designed for 60MM and 81 MM mortar ammunitions.

The last among these identified projects is the manufacture of pyrotechnics. This a actually a flare used for signalling and illumination purposes. However, the official said the project has been suspended pending determination of the future requirements for signal flares.

Nuns Expose Military 'Atrocities' in Aurora

HK150725 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 15 Mar 88 pp 1, 6

[By staff writer Julius Fortuna]

[Text] Catholic church leaders, including Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen of Infanta, Quezon and the custodians of President Aquino's favorite prayer house, exposed yesterday a series of alleged atrocities committed by an Army battalion in Aurora province.

Labayen and the Sisters of Mount Carmel revealed that since January 15, the following violations of human rights have been reported in Aurora.

—Strafing of the Infanta Prelature Formation House,
—Illegal search of the Mount Carmel convent and the Prelature Formation House,
—Burning of the seven houses of poor farmers in Barangay Dibarebed and Dibaraybay,
—Shooting in Dibaraybay of the Gutierrez couple in their own house,
—Massacre in Barangay Simbahan of five civilians, including a three-year old boy, and leaving behind a six-year-old boy who was brutally wounded, and
—Murder of Roberto Rivares, a volunteer church functionary.

Sister Rosalinda Lim, regional superior of the Carmelite Sisters, said that because of the "mounted tension" in Aurora, her fellow nuns have been forced to leave Dinalungan for Manila via Baler.

"Majority of the victims are Catholic Church leaders and workers who dared to live by the Gospel, said Sister Rosalinda in a letter to President Aquino. A copy of the letter was made available to the press.

A report prepared by human rights groups said the Carmelite Convent and the Infanta Prelature House were raided by elements of the 56th Army Infantry Battalion on January 16.

It was alleged by the military that the convent was being used by communist insurgents, but this was not proven by the investigators, the report said.

A day before, on January 15, there was a reported encounter between government troops and communist rebels.

Also on January 15, the report charged, elements of the 119th PC Company and the 56th IB [Infantry Battalion] burned seven houses in Barangay Dibarebed and Dibaraybay. Among the houses burned were those owned by the San Agustin, Bauyon, Flores, Vertudes, Mural and Valle families.

On January 30, says the report, another incident occured in Barangay Dibaraybay, this time a strafing which led to wounding of Reglio and Nora Gutierrez.

The perpetrators were not identified, but it said that "armed men in fatigue uniforms with their faces covered with bonnets" were seen by witnesses as leaving the scene of the crime.

The report also cited the case of the "Simbahan Masacre" where five civilians, including a three-year old boy, were killed.

Bishop Labayen presented to the press Ronaldo Guzman, a six-year-old child who survived the massacre.

The massacre, according to the report, allegedly occurred at midnight on January 23 in Barangay Simbalan, Dinalungan.

The alleged victims of the massacre were: Reynaldo Guzman, his wife Julita, Eduardo Soria and his three-year-old son, Ricky.

Labayen, who was chairman of the National Secretariat for social Action (NASSA) from 1966 to 1981, demanded "just recompense for the damage to property and indemnity for the loss of lives" of some of his parishioners.

He also called for "sanction of law for those who violated the rights of our people."

Labayen also proposed the reconvening of the Church Military Liaison committee (CMLC) to act as forum for civilian grievances against the military.

The CMLC was formed during the Marcos administration but was eventually dissolved when bishops and military went at loggerheads on human rights issues.

The religious leaders recommended the disarming and prosecution of military elements involved in the atrocities allegedly committed by AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] soldiers.

They also urged the authorities to insure the safe return of evacuees, now in Manila and in Baler, to Dinalungan, Aurora.

Military Dismisses MNLF War Threats

HK140439 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] The military yesterday dismissed as a hoax the threats being circulated by Muslim separatist forces that they would renew fighting in the south should the MNLF fail to gain membership of the Organization of Islamic Countries [as heard—OIC].

In a telephone interview with members of the Defense Press Corps, Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Elias, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Southern Command spokesman says in reality Muslims would rather engage in business than support the MNLF. Elias said that many self proclaimed spokesmen of the MNLF float rumors of an impending war in order to cause further hostilities among Christians and Muslims in the south.

Just to be safe, the military has been placed on red alert status in the region following intelligence report that the MNLF leader Nur Misuari has ordered the deployment of members of the so-called National Security Command from far flung islands to the Mindanao mainland.

Ramos Asks Muslim Rebels To Renounce War

HK150247 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos has appealed to the Muslim rebels to renounce war because it will only bring more violence, hardship, and suffering among the people of Mindanao. Ramos sounded the appeal a week before the annual meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference in Amman, Jordan, on March 21 to 23 where the thorny Mindanao problem will be discussed.

In a press statement Ramos reiterated the government's policy of solving the Mindanao problem through peaceful means, just as many former MNLF commanders have been doing the past years. He said that the national government, as well as the Department of National Defense and the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] have always been following a program of peaceful development and the observance of all democratic processes. He said this was the thrust and the spirit of President Aquino's pronouncements when she visited Tawitawi and Zamboanga City last month. The defense chief said that while the government will always follow the democratic and reconciliatory approach to settle the ticklish Mindanao issue, the AFP nevertheless is prepared for any contingency.

Muslim Groups Denounce 'Total War Policy'

HK141513 Quezon City MALAYA in English 14 Mar 88 p 3

["Paid Advertisement" by the Bangsa Moro Unity for a Democratic and Just Action Campaign (BUDJAC): "BUDJAC Manifesto" entitled "In The Name of God, The Benificent, The Merciful, Oppressed People fo the Philippines, Unite Against Total War Policy"]

[Text] The infamous Jabidah Massacre in March 18, 1968 has become the herald of the historic repression and deception by the neo-colonial rule that gave birth to the Moro consciousness. Subsequent injustices from the burning of Jolo in 1974, the Pata carnage in 1980, the Lampasok massacre in 1985 and all other violations committed against the Moro people are too soon to be torn from the pages of our history.

To this day, still we continue to suffer from the perils of intensive militarization and deception by the U.S.-backed Aquino government.

The aspiration of the Moro people for genuine autonomy is continually being denied them with spurious policies meant to cloud their clamour. One such deceptive act is the creation of the Regional Consultative Commission (RCC), the composition of which is non-representative of the basic Moro masses and appointed by an insincere president. It is merely an autonomy bill drafting arm of the elite-dominated Congress.

The RCC is a circus that must be rejected.

While the present regime shows a liberal posturing with its deceptive policies, it wields a sword of terror with its policy of war against the masses.

The rise of vigilante groups, specifically anti-Moro vigilantes, the spread of para-military and fanatical groups, the escalation of military operations, the consolidation of its civilian bureaucracy towards active participation in the counter-insurgency campaign, and the total abuse and disregard of basic human rights, defines the U.S.-Aquino regime's total-war policy.

Hundreds of families had been driven away as a result of a series of military and para-military operations in two separate incidents in Upper Sepaka, Surallah, South Cotabato and in Igad Island, Zamboanga del Sur. This alone belies the supposed sincerity of Mrs Aquino to restore peace and order in the South and the rest of the Philippine Archipelago.

The proposal of Speaker Ramon Mitra for RP [Republic of the Philippines] membership bid to the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) is a desperate and comical attempt to block the MNLF's petition for OIC membership, is a product of the continuous repressive and deceptive acts of the Aquino and past puppet regimes.

Today, as we commemorate the twentieth year of the birth of the Moro consciousness, we observe the whole month of March as a month of protests against injustices brought about by fascist attacks on the Moro masses.

In the name of justice, let all human rights violations be exposed and opposed regardless of how immeasurable and exhausting the efforts shall be.

Moro and Filipino unite and resist the U.S.-Aquino regime's policy of total war!

Onward with the struggle for national freedom and democracy!

Allahuakhbar! Allahuakhbar! Allahuakhbar! [God is great]

[Signed] The Bangsamoro [Moro Homeland] Unity for a Democratic and Just Action Campaign (BUDJAC)
Moro Human Rights Center (MHRC)
Bangsa Moro Solidarity Conference (BMSC)
Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (CMCU)
Moro Women's Solidarity for Leadership and Tawheed (MOSLEMAT)
Bangsamoro Students Alliance (BANGSA)
Philippine Muslim Students Association (PHIMSA)
Muslim Students Cultural and Educational League (MUSCEL)
Integrated Muslim Students of the Philippines (IMUSTAPHIL)
Alliance of Islamic Moro Students (AIMS)
Muslim Students Association (MSA)

Aquino Names Regional Commission Nominees

HK150719 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 15 Mar 88 pp 1,6

[By Roy S. de Guzman and Jerry Esplanada]

[Text] President Aquino yesterday said she would grant autonomy to the country's Muslim minority despite strong objections from Bangsamoro [Moro nation] separatists and other critics.

Ms. Aquino issued the statement after the Moro National Liberation Front warned that Muslims who backed the autonomy would be condemned by their religious leaders.

"It's not the Muslims, I think it's just the MNLF," she told reporters. "But this is what the Constitution mandates so we're just following the Constitution."

Last Friday she endorsed a bill authorizing her to name the Regional Consultative Commission [RCC] which would help Congress pass legislation defining the structure of autonomy in the Muslim-dominated areas of Mindanao and nearby islands.

Among those named yesterday by the president to RCC was a widely respected Muslim religious leader, Ustadz Ibrahim Gazzali, a former chief-of-staff of the MNLF and two Roman Catholic priests.

Twenty-five of the nominees are Muslims. The rest are tribesmen, Christian educators, politicians, businessmen, lawyers and sectoral leaders.

Apart from Gazzali, the nominees include Dambung Sali, former MNLF chief-of-staff; surrendered MNLF rebels Amilpasa Bandaying and Alawi Mohammad; former Zamboanga City Officer-in-Charge Rustico Varela, a known anti-autonomy advocate; and Catholic priests Jesus Villagante of South Cotabato and Jose Doroteo Ante.

Also nominated was Edward Lim, a brother-in-law of the late Desdemona Tan, wife of MNLF chairman Nur Misuari.

Under the Constitution, the RCC would assist Congress in formulating the organic charter for Muslim autonomy in the South. The RCC will submit within five months its final recommendations to the law-making body, and Congress should enact the law within the year.

Teresita Maceda, chief information officer of the government's peace commision, told the INQUIRER the President can still name five more members to the RCC.

Ms. Aquino is also scheduled to induct the RCC members' into office on March 18, the MNLF's 20th "anniversary of independence," in a still unnamed city in Mindanao.

The members will elect among themselves the chairman of the commission.

The RCC members will receive a monthly salary of P5,000, a transportation allowance of P5,000, and a stipend of P500 for each session.

The Commission on Appointments, which earlier vowed to expedite the confirmation of the nominees, has scheduled a plenary session tomorrow to hear complaints against any of the presidential nominees.

The Office of the President yesterday forwarded to the Commission on Appointments the names of Ms. Aquino's RCC nominees: Rosalino Acosta and Rey Rafols (Palawan); Roncesvales Filoteo (Basilan); Virginia Villanueva and Dambung Sali (Sulu); Mansur Saquili (Tawi Tawi);

Rustico Varela, Gabriel Cad, Yolando Villaruz and Javier Suico Jr. (Zamboanga del Norte); Priscilla Ebillo and George Minor (Zamboanga del Sur); Jessie Carbon, Cartiga Kinoc and Felipe Ferolin (Davao del Sur); Bai Janena Tito, Jesus Villagante and Rafael Lantingan (South Cotabato); Pafnucio Mejia and Rakiin Umpasaira (Lanao del Norte); Tocod Macaraya and Salipada Tamano (Lanao del Sur); Bai Mompong Mentang and Aladdin Ampatuan (Maguindanao); Mindo Anking and Manyaga Mantawil (North Cotabato); Neoldino del Corro (Sultan Kudarat); Jose Doroteo Ante; Amilpasa Bandaying; Taha Basman; Victoria Casanova; Nasrodin Dacula; Jose Enginco; Benjamin Flores; Maria Loco Gandam; Ibrahim Gazzali; Abdul Gajer Ismael; Oyong Ladjain Ismael; Noriam Ladjagais; Mama Lalanto; Edward Lim; Datu Milanio Limpuaon; Nagasura Madale; Olympio Manalac Jr; Nasser Marohomsalic; Alawi Mohammad; Rudy Rodil; Abdul Sampulna; Dominador Simon and Kalinggaalan Toto.

Yesterday, the nominees were immediately criticized by leaders of the MNLF and other rebel groups.

MNLF civilian coordinator Ustadz Zain Jali said he believes the RCC would fail, adding that the separatist front will soon announce a move to counteract the government-sponsored body.

"These are not the people we can trust," Jali said.

Jali also claimed that Lim had previously rejected the offer to sit as a member of the RCC. "He is in fact in Libya," the MNLF's spiritual adviser said.

Discusses Nominations

HK141441 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has refused a proposal to elect the members of the Regional Consultative Commission in Mindanao. According to her, there is not enough time to implement the RCC, in accordance with the mandate of the Consititution. Malacanang today released the names the RCC's 27 nominees for district commissioners and 23 commissioners at large. The commission will assist in legislating the autonomy law in Mindanao.

[Begin recording in English] [Aquino] It is not the Muslims, I think it is just the MNLF.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Aquino] But this is what the Constitution mandates, so we are just following the Constitution.

[Reporter] Ma'am, they want an election

[Aquino] Election of what?

[Reporter] RCC.

[Aquino] No, no, because there is a time element to consider. Congress has to come up with an organic act by December of this year. So it is not something that we can just delay. The nominees were selected from a very wide group, and this was done through consultation with the people in Mindanao. [end recording]

In a related story, congressman Ali Dimaporo confirmed the report that the MNLF is prepared to stage an attack on Mindanao next week. Dimaporo said that the MNLF forces at Mount Caromatan, Lanao del Norte are almost complete. In addition, several of its groups are already deployed in different provinces of Mindanao. The

MNLF aims to set up a provisional government. Dimaporo warned that the government should make a move to stop the MNLF's plan to occupy Cagayan de Oro City on 28 March.

Muslim Leaders Condemn Aquino Autonomy Plan
HK141035 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[By Roy de Guzman, with report by Mario Feliciano]

[Text] The spiritual adviser of the Moro National Liberation Front yesterday warned that Muslims who back the government's peace drive will be condemned by their religious leaders.

Ustadz Zain Jali aired the warning as he arrived in Manila from Zamboanga City to address a gathering of Muslim leaders planning nationwide activities on March 18 to mark the 20th MNLF "anniversary of independence."

In Zamboanga City, meanwhile, over 1-,000 people joined a solidarity march seeking a "constitutional autonomy" in Mindanao, not one under the auspices of the MNLF.

The rally coincided with the 43rd anniversary of the liberation of that city from Japanese forces during World War II.

A resolution signed by all 12 elected councillors and Vice Mayor Jose C. Climaco said the city's residents are against MNLF autonomy.

In his warning, however, Jali said: "Anyone who collaborates with the Aquino regime by joining the RCC (Regional Consultative Commission) will be considered a traitor to the cause and will be imposed setwa (a form of ostracism).

President Aquino recently signed a bill creating the RCC which will draft the organic law of the autonomous region of Mindanao. Under the Constitution, the President can appoint members of the commission.

Jali later told reporters a provisional government of Mindanao will be declared as soon as MNLF chieftain Nur Misuari returns from the Middle East.

Misuari will head a top-level MNLF delegation to the foreign ministers' meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] in Amman, Jordan March 21-25.

Jali said that under the revolutionary government to be set up by the MNLF, Christians, Muslims and tribesmen will be represented, and only the local officials who do not agree with the MNLF will be replaced.

The list of the 55 appointed members of the RCC will be submitted for confirmation to the Commission on Appointment today.

Former Sen. Domocao Alonto has reportedly been asked by the President to head the RCC but Alonto declined saying he is too old for the job. He is 75.

Sources in the Peace Commission said former University of the Philippines Prof. Nagasura Madale is now being considered to head the RCC.

Politicians and former rebels in yesterday's Muslim gathering criticized those who have backed the government's peace efforts.

Abul Khayr Alonto, former MNLF vice chairman, said the Muslim Federal Party which he heads has joined forces with Enrique Zobel's Unlad Bayan to press for a federal setup of government.

"This is even a step ahead of autonomy," Alonto said.

Limpasan Idjirani, Muslim Democratic Party president, claimed more than one million Muslims and Christians have signed a petition backing the MNLF petition for OIC membership.

Macapanton Abbas of the MNLF Reformist Group called the RCC's formation as "a declaration of war by the government." He also urged Muslims to continue the fight for a separate state.

"Nobody can deny we are a nation, with a common language, religion, culture and aspiration. We have rejected all forms of colonialism. So how can we be Filipinos?"

Datu Ray Ibrahim Uy, MNLF spokesman, said that while the government "coddled" those who backed its peace initiatives, MNLF political leaders like him who returned from exile abroad, are now being threatened with arrest.

"I fear the consequences," Uy said.

Former Tawitawi Gov. Al Tillah said moderates like him earlier supported Ms. Aquino believing she would implement the 1976 Tripoli Agreement. "But now that she has turned her back on us, we consider ourselves free from our commitment to support her."

Protestant Pastor Absalom Cerveza said a number of Christians in Mindanao who feel they have been neglected by the government are now backing the MNLF position on the autonomy issue.

"Christians who oppose Muslim self-rule speak not in our behalf but are in fact representatives of several multinational corporations in the South," he said.

On March 18, rallies and prayer gatherings will be staged in Manila, Cotabato, Davao and Marawi, and in Jolo, Sulu and Isabela, Basilan. The organizers of the Manila rally said a motorcade will pass by Malacanang.

Call Commission 'Threat'

HK140431 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] The MNLF branded the creation of a Regional Consultative Commission as a threat against peaceful negotiations with the govenrment.

In a news conference yesterday afternoon Macapanton Abbas of the MNLF Reformist group, Datu Ray Ibrahim Uy MNLF spokesman, and Abul Khayer Alonto of the GAD denounced the RCC as a violation of the Tripoli Agreement. Alonto and others urged President Corazon Aquino to immediately organize a government panel to negotiate implementation of the Tripoli Agreement which provides for the creation of a provisional government subject to the Constitutional provision on economy.

Government, MNLF May Resume Peace Talks

HK111403 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 10 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[With reports by Marien Ronquillo, Rorito S. de Guzman, and Ed Perpena]

[Text] The possibility of a resumption of peace talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] surfaced yesterday when an officer of the MNLF reformist block proposed this and the Administration hinted it would consider the proposal.

Meanwhile, the Mindanao issue appears to have reawakened the dormant hostilities between Speaker Ramon V. Mitra and Vice President Salvador H. Laurel, both said to be eyeing the presidency in 1992.

Yesterday, Mitra lashed out at Laurel after the latter ridiculed the former's proposal that the Philippines apply for membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] to preempt the MNLF bid.

Macapanton Abbas, secretary general of the MNLF reformist bloc, told the Senate committee on Mindanao affair, headed by Sen Aquilino Pimentel Jr. that a revival of the peace talks would prevent the resumption of hostilities there.

Abbas and Datu Rey Ibrahim Uy, MNLF spokesman, appeared before the committee to answer questions on the MNLF and its break-away groups—the MNLF reformist bloc and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF]—and their reported consensus to accredit the MNLF as member of the OIC.

Abbas said the Tripoli agreement is largely acceptable as a starting point for genuine autonomy talks.

The agreement, signed in the Libyan capital in 1976, grants limited self-rule for 13 Mindanao provinces.

Abbas said the Muslims reject the current peace initiatives which center on the Regional Consultative Council which will draft the organic charter for an autonomous Muslim Mindanao.

The peace initiatives of the Aquino Administration, Abbas said, are unilateral one-sided because they do not involve genuine Muslim leaders.

Uy and Abbas also claimed Tora Tora planes have been strafing portions of Makilala town in North Cotabato as part of the government's effort to annihilate MNLF forces there. Pimentel denied the accusation, saying that no such military action has ever been undertaken.

In a news conference yesterday, Col Oscar Florendo, Armed Forces spokesman, confirmed that the military has launched both ground and air attacks in Makilala but not against MNLF rebels, but against communist guerillas.

Florendo said the operations were launched after a soldiers earlier captured by New People's Army rebels there escaped and pinpointed the rebels' training camp.

He added that the military has not initiated any operation against the MNLF.

Meanwhile, the government charged that the MNLF violated the Tripoli agreement by demanding autonomy in 23 provinces.

But Teresita Maceda, chief information officer of the Peace Commission, said that despite this, the Administration remains open to the possibility of resuming talks with the MNLF or for the MNLF and other Bangsamoro rebels to join the RCC [Regional Consultative Council].

Sources in the peace commission said the target date for appointing the RCC members is March 18, the MNLF's "anniversary of independence."

Meanwhile, Mitra charged Laurel with ignorance of the basics of diplomacy when the vice president "predicted, without solid basis," the rejection of the proposed Philippine membership with the OIC.

"Elementary diplomatic practice dictates that a state applies for membership only when it is certain of admission," Mitra said. "Laurel should know this."

Laurel is former foreign secretary. He resigned last year due to "irreconcilable differences" with the President and the Cabinet.

Mitra also described as "unbelievable, simply unbelievable," Laurel's statement that the idea of applying for OIC membership is wrong because it was not done by the Marcos regime.

Mindanao Christians Reject Autonomy Proposal

HK111357 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 10 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[By Jessica L. Densing]

[Text] Cagayan de Oro City—The Aquino Administration may have a tough time enforcing a constitutional provision granting autonomy to certain areas in Mindanao where Christians and Muslims are intermixed, according to a survey conducted recently.

Conducted by the Research Institute for Mindanao Culture (RIMCU) based in Xavier University, the survey showed that over 90 percent of the 2,000 respondents from Mindanao's Christians and tribal groups reject the proposal.

Some of the non-Muslims have indicated that they would join armed groups that oppose the autonomy being proposed for such areas as Zamboanga, Cotabato, and Lanao del Norte.

The survey also showed that majority of the respondents felt that:

—The major social problems in Mindanao are political instability and widespread poverty.

—Political dialog among the conflicting groups, along with government assistance programs, is the solution to these problems.

—The government "in Manila" has given low priority to the needs and development potentials of Mindanao.

Majority of the Christian and tribal respondents felt they would be seriously discriminated against by the Muslims if the proposed autonomy is implemented. This would only serve to heighten violence in the area, rather than reduce it, they said.

But majority of the Muslims surveyed endorsed the autonomy provision. The Muslims said they feel the proposed autonomous region would enhance peace because it will allow closer integration of Islamic values and the political system and speed up the economic development of Mindanao.

The Moro National Liberation Front headed by Nur Misuari had originally agreed to negotiate with the government on the grant of autonomy to certain areas in Mindanao and nearby islands. But when the talks broke down over the extent of the autonomous region, Misuari revived his group's fight for secession from the republic. He is now claiming that the MNLF's separatist aims are being supported by Christians and Muslims in the South.

The Mindanao Independence Movement headed by former Batasang Pambansa [National Assembly] Assemblyman Reuben Canoy has also reportedly united with Misuari's group to pressure the government into granting complete independence for Mindanao

The RIMCU survey was funded by the Ford and Asia Foundations.

Dr Marilou Palabrica-Qostello, survey coordinator, said the autonomy proposal is extremely popular among Muslim Filipinos and its implementation in homogeneously Muslim areas is apparent.

But she added that in areas such like Zamboanga, Cotabato and Lanao del Norte where Christians and Muslims are "strongly intermixed," few members of the majority Christian groups want it.

About 50 percent of the Christians surveyed said they would rather transfer to other places if their present areas of residence were to become part of the Muslim autonomous region, Costello said.

Worse, she said, others indicated they would join an armed resistance group to fight the autonomous government.

The survey also showed that Muslims and Christians could not agree on the geographic scope of the autonomous region and its governing powers.

The less than 10 percent of the respondents from Christian and tribal groups who favored autonomy want to keep both the size and the powers of the autonomous region to a minimum, the report indicated. They also do not want to give the autonomous government the power to change the present landholding and courts systems, or to levy taxes and establish an armed security force.

The Muslim respondents want the autonomous region to cover the whole of Mindanao and Sulu, including provinces which have a heavy Christian majority.

The survey also showed that Christians constitute a majority of Mindanao's and Sulu's population, with 77 percent of all residents belonging to this group. The Muslims are a poor second with 17 percent while the tribesmen constitute about six percent.

Under the 1976 Tripoli Agreement which the government wants fully implemented, the autonomous region would cover 13 provinces in Mindanao and Sulu within Regions 9 and 12.

The survey was the joint effort of a team of six social scientists based in Notre Dame University, Ateneo de Davao, Western Mindanao State University, Mindanao State University and Xavier University.

MNLF Campaign Produces 1 Million Signatures

HK150757 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English 15 Mar 88 pp 24, 14

[By Raissa Espinosa-Robles]

[Text] One million signatures from Mindanao are now on their way to Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chairman Nur Misuari in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The signatures are to petition the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to accept the MNLF as a regular member, Misuari's civilian coordinator and religious adviser, Ustadz Sharif Zain Jali told BUSINESS STAR.

Jali also said the MNLF anniversary celebration on March 18 would be peaceful. "Our placards will say 'Peace and Unity.' We don't want to be accused of war mongering," he said.

Meanwhile, President Aquino submitted the 50 nominees to the government-backed Regional Consultative Commission (RCC). The nominees include ex-MNLF top official Dambong Sali who was shot by unknown assailants in Zamboanga City the day after the President's visit to Tawitawi.

At the same time, Senator Mamintal Tamano lambasted Jali for branding as traitors those Muslims who would join the RCC or work with the Aquino government. This was the first time a Muslim official, a senator who is the brother of the Philippine ambassador to Saudi Arabia, has publicly criticized the MNLF.

In an interview, Jali told BUSINESS STAR that the first batch of signatures collected starting the first week of February has been spirited out through the southern backdoor. The signature campaign was undertaken by Hadji Idjirani's Muslim Democratic Party based in Zamboanga City. Idjirani claimed that the signatories came from all parts of Mindanao.

The second batch of signatures would be sent out of the country this week. the petition of the signatories is accompanied by a cover letter endorsed by over 40 Muslim religious and political leaders. Most of the leaders come from Regions IX (Western Mindanao) and XII (Central Mindanao), although some come from Metro Manila and Cebu.

The leader's letter is addressed to OIC secretary general Dr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada. It states among others that Liberation of the Bangsa Moro [Moro Nation] homeland may be attained only through the full membership of the MNLF in the OIC. It recognizes Misuari as the legitimate representative of the Bangsa Moro people to the OIC.

For the first time since the peace talks failed last year, an MNLF official downplayed the secession bid. Jali told BUSINESS STAR that autonomy is still negotiable up to March 21 (the date of the OIC meeting) and even if the MNLF becomes a regular OIC member.

Jali explained that the MNLF does not want to plunge Mindanao into another war. "Negotiation for autonomy is still possible and our fighters in the field and the civilians are demanding from the Aquino government a renewal of negotiations," he said. Asked about the MNLF secession bid, Jali claimed "it is not in the mind of the MNLF now."

However, the letter to be sent to Pirzada implies that the MNLF has not dropped secession as a long-range goal. The letter states that through full membership in the OIC, "the suppressed and the exploited Moro people ultimately will be emancipated."

To this observation Jali claimed that the MNLF bid for secession last year was just a part of their negotiating stand, wherein they asked for much more than what they knew they could reasonably get in the hope that the government would grant what they really wanted.

Jali's statements conflicted with those of other alleged MNLF spokesmen who have been giving news conferences lately. Another source from the MNLF explained the conflicting statements this way: "The post of MNLF spokesman is more often assumed (by the individual) than delegated (by Misuari)."

Deliberations on the 50 RCC nominees meanwhile start today.

The nominees will first be screened by the Commission on Appointments" committee on constitutional commissions headed by Senator Edgardo Angara. To speed up the process, Angara has divided the work among three subcommittees. No Muslim legislator is involved in the initial screening.

Meanwhile, Tamano said Jali's statement branding RCC Muslim nominees as traitors was "most presumptious."

The Muslim community has no pontifical leader who can make ex-cathedra statements, the senator from Lanao said.

The RCC list includes "the best and the brightest," Tamano claimed. He appealed to the OIC as a Muslim and Filipino citizen, that it should not listen to forces that would want to stampede us into war because these people are misguided and are motivated by political ambition."

He challenged the MNLF leaders to lay their leadership on the line by joining the political arena.

House Approves Guerrilla Amnesty Bill

HK150545 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] The House of Representatives has approved Resolution No. 168 giving concurrence to the amnesty granted by the president to communist rebels under Executive Order 365 last February 29. The resolution noted that thousands have filed application for amnesty and that it could not be effected without congressional concurrence.

The Constitution provides that the president shall have the power to grant amnesty with the concurrence of the majority of all the members of Congress. The resolution was originally filed in the Filipino language by Representative Eduardo Joson of Nueva Ecija. The approved version was translated into English to prevent controversies over the language coming from non-Tagalog speaking congressmen.

Military Cadets Support Amnesty for Honasan

HK111349 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[By Cesar Espino]

[Text] Fort del Pilar, Baguio City—Several members of the Armed Forces' cadet corps yesterday expressed anew their support for dismissed Army Col Gregorio Honasan and urged the government to grant him amnesty.

At the same time, unconfirmed reports also have it that some Philippine Military Academy [PMA] alumni are set to make public their sentiments regarding amnesty for Honasan during a parade of alumni at Borromeo Field this afternoon as part of the three-day activities that would culminate with graduation rites tomorrow.

The cadet corps, led by this year's graduating batch at the elite PMA, threw its support for mutinous soldiers at the height of the failed Aug 28 coup attempt last year.

The PMA graduating class of 135 students, to be commissioned as either second lieutenants or ensigns in the various services in commencement rites tomorrow, is expected to infuse new blood in the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] officers corps.

Several members of PMA class 1988 interviewed by the INQUIRER said, however, they do not intend to make a collective move in expressing their sentiments, but nonetheless confirmed that there is a sentiment among the cadets that Honasan and his fellow mutineers should be given amnesty.

"What happened is now in the past and after all the government is keeping a policy of reconciliation," said cadet Antonio P. Mendoza, this year's most bemedaled PMA graduate and "class baron."

Mendoza cited the cases of the granting of amnesty to several communist rebels, saying "ilang libo na ring tao ang pinatay nila [They have killed thousands of people]. And they were involved, at least indirectly, and yet they were given amnesty."

He added, "I am personally for amnesty (for Honasan and company) but I cannot speak for the entire cadet corps."

Cadet Adel Luis Bordado, who is ranked number four, said the government should grant amnesty to Honasan since his reasons for launching the Aug 28 coup were "valid."

"We still believe in the Constitution and the institution of the presidency," Bordado said. "We believe in that move of Gregorio Honasan was a fight against communism."

On the hunger strike, he said: "Pinaninindigan namin 'yon [We had been determined in carrying it out]."

Asked if he thought the cadets are still supportive of Honasan, he said, "no more," and added that "his motive was good but his action was unconstitutional.."

Nonetheless, Bordadao added: "Give him amnesty. If the government can give amnesty to the rebels, why can't they give amnesty to Honasan."

Cadet Opiniano Jaime, also among the top graduates, said the cadets are now more satisfied with the way the government is handling the insurgency.

"I don't think there is too much politics in the AFP," Jaime said, reacting to a question. "There is political awareness but there is no political involvement."

Cadet Denis Isleta, son of vice chief of staff Brig Gen Honesto Isleta, said the cadet corps went on a passive strike but added that his fellow cadets made a mistake in doing so.

He said the cadets are now more aware of the importance of strictly following the military chain of command.

"We did not go on a hunger strike, it was a passive strike but we learned our lesson," Isleta said.

Mendoza said that the emotional impact on the cadets of the Aug 28 coup has already died down because of the many activities at the academy.

Asked to comment on the reported expression of support for Honasan, Gen Renato S. de Villa, AFP chief of staff, said: "I do not know if the cadets are saying that individually or as a group. But I think we better leave that to higher authorities."

Maj Gen Ramon E. Montano, Constabulary chief, who is also here to attend the graduation rites, said: "That should be expected, it is in keeping with the spirit of this academy."

Montano, a member of PMA class 1958 said he did not agree with the idea of giving Honasan amnesty saying: "I don't think we feel that way (but) they are entitled to their own opinion.

Aquino Says Court To Decide

HK120231 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In a press conference at Malacanang earlier, President Aquino made it clear that the case of Honasan and other officers who took part in the August 28 coup try which killed many persons will have to be decided by the court before any talk of amnesty could be entertained. [Aquino recording indistinct]

Meanwhile, in Baguio, special combat troops with bomb-sniffing dogs searched the grounds of the Philippine Military Academy [PMA] yesterday. The military said the bomb search teams were deployed at the PMA because of a bombing last year that killed 4 people, including 2 military officers, and wounded 43.

Formation of 'Nation Movers' Viewed

HK141255 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 12 Mar 88 pp 1, 3

["Analysis" column by Amando Doronila: "Unlad Bayan: A Creature of Frustration"]

[Text] The conspiratorial mist that has shrouded the formation of the multisectoral movement called the Nation Movers has cleared up a bit with the formal emergence of Unlad Bayan [Nation Movers] and the identity of the leading people in the movement. It was announced that the businessman Enrique Zobel had been elected chairman of the movement.

More important, the movement has defined the issues of its agenda to move the nation—apparently to the Right spectrum of politics. The birth of the movement may be examined from several perspectives: (1) as a response to the apparent paucity of initiative from the Aquino Government in formulating its own agenda; (2) as a net that serves to capture the growing disaffection with the Government; and (3) as a platform to articulate a possible Right-wing ideology and galvanize sectors and individuals disaffected with the Government.

The movement has occupied an agenda vacuum left by the Government. During the past two years, the main preoccupation of the Government has been (1) trying to survive challenges to its survival; (2) restoring democratic institutions modeled on the pre-1972 political arrangements; and (3) removing the restraints on the market-oriented economy. All these efforts have nothing to do with creation of new ideas, with innovation and with political or social renewal. Items number two and three are concerned with restoration of past edifices. They do not form an agenda—an architectural design for the nation with the flair of a renaissance.

After the restoration, something else was needed to move the nation forward, but the Government had nothing to offer except a President who is tough and who has demonstrated a gift to defeat the challenges—including armed ones—against the Government and the State. What followed was blistering aridness. The vacuum demanded to be filled. Since the presence was not available from the Government, it was only a matter of time before some groups moved in. The Unlad Bayan did exactly that.

Agenda setting is the initiative of government—not the opposition's. To govern effectively, the Administration must set the rules of the game and determine the national agenda. If the Government cannot set the pace, competing groups will seize the initiative and twist the Government on their fingers. What's happening is that the agenda has been defined by the rival groups, and the Government has to respond to the issues set by them. They are dictating the terms of battle and drawing the Government into the terrain of their choice. and if the Government does not respond by ignoring the initiatives of its rivals, it would appear very bankrupt.

From what has been revealed so far, many of the components of Unlad Bayan are former Aquino coalition allies from various sectors and also former Marcos regime functionaries. The former allies have been cast adrift because of policy conflicts—for example, the former defense minister, Juan Ponce Enrile—or because they are no longer useful or because they are disenchanted with the performance of the Government.

I am informed that the ranks of Unlad will soon be reinformced by recruits associated with the Jimmy Ongpin steam wing of disaffected Cory supporters. Thus, Unlad appears to be the new gravitational pole of people and groups which basically had gravitated around Mrs Aquino in the protest movement against the Marcos regime.

I do not see that Unlad will transform right away into a bandwagon for the disaffected or for the growing ranks of disillusioned Cory supporters. If Mr Zobel is seeking to rebuild the role that the Makati Business Club played in the anti-Marcos movement, that task might be too ambitious.

The key to the success of the anti-Marcos coalition built around Cory Aquino was that all its components were bound by a powerful element—there was national anger, or outrage, against the Marcos regime. The people were angry over the assassination of Benigno Aquino, which symbolized the Marcos repression and violation of human rights; over its corruption and crony-capitalism;

over the deterioration of the economy; over the rapid decline of living standards; and over the failure to curb the growing inequality in the distribution wealth.

This anger fused the important social institutions and sectors in the fight to end the Marcos regime. Today, most of the people are not angry with Cory Aquino. There is no national outrage against her Government. This explains why, during crises in which her Government was under armed assaults or was threatened by coups, the people supported her. At least, they did not rush to the side of mutinies and rebellions.

If the people are not angry, they are, however, frustrated and disenchanted with Mrs Aquino. They are frustrated over her failure to seize the unique historical opportunities in ger grasp to launch far-reaching social and political reforms. This frustration—poignantly demonstrated in the suicide of Jimmy Ongpin—has found expression in such movements as Unlad.

The group led by Mr Zobel could easily be tempted to overestimate its potential. The movement has no national outrage to ride upon. It is not possible to recreate the momentum for change that was at the bottom of the anti-Marcos movement. Similarly, it is impossible to recreate Edsa.

The emergence of Unlad, however, should be a jolt to the Aquino Government. Its message is that the Government must lift its game. If it does not, it is going to give impetus to the movement. For Unlad is a creature of frustration.

Aquino Welcomes Opposition

HK151407 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has heartily welcomed the announcement by the newly established Nation Movers that it would put up its own candidate in the 1992 presidential elections. Former Labor Minister Blas Ople earlier said that the Nation Movers planned to field its own presidential candidate in 1992.

The Nation Movers includes industrialist Enrique Zobel, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, and Vice President Salvador Laurel.

However, President Aquino stressed that presidential candidates should possess the appropriate qualifications, adding that anyone is free to run for president but he or she should be fully qualified for the job.

Students, Parents Join Striking Teachers

HK091435 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1100 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] The ongoing strike of teachers in Manila took a turn for the worse when the strikers were joined by parents and students in their picket in front of the Manila City Hall. They demanded that the city government pay the teachers the salaries and other benefits due to them.

In a related development, President Aquino ordered Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig to resolve the issue and to mediate between Mayor Mel Lopez and the striking teachers. The mass leave of 17,000 teachers of public elementary and secondary schools in Metro Manila is entering its second week.

Meanwhile, Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague said this morning that the obligation to pay the teachers what is owed them lies with the Manila City Government. Carague stressed that his department has already honored its obligation on behalf of the national government.

At the same time, it was reported that Deputy Executive Secretary Elma Magdangal told Lopez that it was the responsibility of the Manila City Government to first advance to the Manila teachers 20 percent of their cost of living allowance and other benefits.

Thailand

Prem Meets Denmark's Schluter, Comments on Laos

BK150157 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Mar 88 p 4

[Text] Premier Prem Tinsulanon yesterday defended Thailand's use of force in the territorial conflict with Laos.

During a meeting with Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter at Government House, Prem said military operations were in response to the Laotian occupation of Thai territory according to Sarot Chawanawirat, the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Sarot quoted Prem as telling Schluter it was necessary for Thailand to "hit back" to protect its sovereignty.

However, Prem said the Thai military action "was very limited" and that peace negotiations have replaced the use of force, Sarot told reporters.

Schluter, who arrived here Saturday for a five-day visit, also expressed sympathy with Thailand over the refugee problem, and pledged to help in this regard, he said.

Prem emphasized that the refugee situation is on a changing course because most Indochinese asylum seekers no longer have qualifications set by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sarot added.

"Prem stressed that the Vietnamese withdrawal from Kampuchea is the key to solving the problem," said the spokesman.

Sarot said the Thai leader urged third countries to resettle more refugees, to realize the root cause of the problem and not to single out Thailand's refugee policy for criticism.

"The Danish prime minister said he understood the problem and knew that refugees have burdened Thailand for more than 10 years," he added.

Meanwhile, Michai Wirawaithaya government spokesman, said Thailand and Denmark have vowed to increase their trade relations.

About 40 Thai businessmen have met with their Danish counterparts to discuss further European Economic Community (EEC) assistance for a crop substitution project to reduce tapioca acreage in Thailand. Denmark earlier granted about US$77 million to finance the project.

Prem Briefed on Proposed Policy Shift on Laos

BK150137 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Mar 88 p 3

[Passage in italics as published]

[Text] Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon has been given a preliminary report on Friday's meeting of top Foreign Ministry, Armed Forces and National Security Council (NSC) officials concerning Thai policy towards Laos.

Informed sources said yesterday that during Friday's meeting—in which there was an exchange of views on Thai policy—a committee was set up to review the options proposed.

The committee comprises representatives of the Foreign Ministry, Armed Forces and NSC, the sources said.

After reviewing the options, the committee forwarded their preliminary report to Gen Prem on Saturday after he returned from a visit to Buriram Province, sources said.

Any changes in policy must be approved by the premier and the Cabinet, they said, adding that no final policy changes were decided at Friday's meeting.

Proposals were made that Thailand should adopt a policy focussing more on politics and economics, they said.

Suggestions were also made during the meeting that Thailand should allow greater trade with Laos.

Whether this would include increasing the number of border points was not discussed, the sources said.

Suggestions were made that Thailand should send technical teams to advise Laos on agriculture and that Laos should send study teams here, they said.

It was also suggested that the Thai attitude towards Laos should change—that Thailand should treat and view Laos more as an equal rather than with an attitude of *Ban Phi Muang Nong* [reference to relationship of a big brother to a little brother], the sources said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said yesterday the delegation to Laos on Thursday for more border talks would consist of 16 members.

The team will be led by Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi.

Kasemsamoson yesterday notified Laotian Ambassador Khamphan Simmalavong who was summoned to the Foreign Ministry about the upcoming visit to Vientiane by the Thai delegation.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi said he did not know how long the Vientiane talks would last, but said it is possible they could run for two to three days.

Everything depends on Laos, he said.

The foreign minister also refused to comment on whether the Laotians are sincere in the current efforts to solve the border dispute.

Success of the talks depends on sincerity and trust, ACM Sitthi said.

He hoped the talks would be conducted in a spirit of sincerity on both sides

The minister said he also hopes Laos will see the benefit of cooperation and that the talks, focussing on the formation of a joint border committee to verify and resolve the demarcation issue, will not drag on.

But even after agreement is reached on a framework it will still take years before all demarcation issues are resolved, ACM Sitthi said, citing the Thai-Malaysian and Thai-Burmese borders as examples.

The minister said although Thailand and Malaysia have agreed on a framework to resolve border issues, it was still taking years to resolve all outstanding problems.

Asked to comment on Laotian verbal attacks against Thailand in other countries, Air Chief Marshal Sitthi said he had instructed Thai diplomats overseas to explain the details of the border problem to overseas government.

The foreign minister refused to comment on accusations made by Deputy Laotian Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat in Paris that Thailand lacked "political will" to solve the border dispute.

"Deeds and facts will prove which side has no political will to solve the problem," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Sarot Chawanawirat.

He said Thai embassies abroad would give briefings to foreign ministries of the host countries about the Thai-Lao conflict.

He believed those countries would be able to use their judgement to decide the sincerity of Thailand and Laos.

Army To Reorganize Security at Romklao Village

BK150151 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] The army, in another move to prevent further territorial conflicts with Laos, will reorganize disputed Romklao village to enable border residents to defend themselves, a senior army officer said yesterday.

Authorities will recruit border people to live in the village and "teach them to fight intruders," said the officer, who asked not to be named.

Former soldiers also will be sent into the village, located in Chat Trakan District of Phitsanulok near the Thai-Lao border. A road has been built to the area.

"There are a lot of ex-soldiers still wanting to help the army," he said.

Five more villages will be established in the area, the officer said.

The villagers will be granted land for farming and learn to rely financially on themselves with supervision by authorities.

"However, soldiers will remain in the area to strengthen security," he said.

The scheme will unite border residents and create a sense of nationalism, the officer said. "It's a politics-before-military plan," he added.

Hundreds of ethnic Hmong are living in the area. Romklao village was evacuated during the Thai-Lao battle and occupied by Thai soldiers. Thai troops remained in the village after a cease-fire agreement was reached last month.

The army will carry out the reorganization soon after a problem of budget constraints is solved, the officer said.

The concept of self-defence communities at trouble-plagued Thai-Lao border areas was initiated a few years ago, but the case of Romklao village is considered the most urgent, he said.

"The project will help reduce military expenses, and, at the same time, make defensive measures more effective," the officer said. "It's better than having only soldiers guard the country."

Army officials have been discussing the matter with the National Economic and Social Development Board, the Agriculture Ministry and other agencies, according to the officer.

Thailand and Laos fought a three-month war, ending last month, for control of a 70-square-kilometre area—in which Romklao village is located—between Phitsanulok and Laos' Sayaboury province.

The two countries early last month agreed to withdraw their troops three kilometres from contacting points in Chat Trakan District, including Hill 1428—the centre of the battle.

A Thai delegation will visit Vientiane on Thursday for another round of talks to resolve the border conflict. Negotiations on March 3 and 4 made little progress, with Laos demanding more time to consider establishing a joint commission to redemarcate the border.

The reorganization plan is similar to the Thai project to halt communist insurgency.

Thailand's success in suppressing communists is partly attributed to the so-called "development villages" project.

Prem Urges U.S. Museum To Return Lintel

BK120113 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Mar 88 pp 1, 2

[By Phanu Suwannachinda]

[Excerpts] Buriram—Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon said yesterday during a tour of the restored Phnomrung Temple that "righteousness" will eventually help Thailand to get back the Narai Banthomsin lintel now displayed at a Chicago museum.

This marks the premier's first public comment on the controversial lintel, which disappeared from the Phnomrung Temple in the early 1960s.

Prem said the lintel represents "the pride of the Thais" and the government is using every possible means to seek its return.

During the tour of the 800-year-old Khmer-style temple, the premier was briefed by the director of the Archaeology Division, Nikhom Musikakhama, on the 38-million-baht restoration process, started in 1972.

"The restoration is 98 percent finished. The yard work and the return of the Narai Banthomsin will make the project complete," said Thawisak Senanarong, director general of the Fine Arts Department. [passage omitted]

Asked whether he will seek cooperation from other countries to pressure the Chicago Art Institute to return the lintel, Prem said the government, through the Ministry of Education, has made the appropriate steps toward that end and Minister Marut Bunnak has been assigned to handle the job.

Asked whether it is necessary to exchange the lintel with another equivalent antique, Prem said instead that (Thawisak) has indicated that its replicas are abundant, which can be given to the Chicago museum.

Asked whether the lintel could be returned to the temple in time for its official opening, the premier said: "I don't know. I cannot answer. But the official opening will be held for sure in early April."

Paper Notes U.S. 'Pressure' on Patent Law

BK140245 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Mar 88 p 13

[By Witsanu Cholitkun]

[Text] The United States government has insisted that Thailand amend patent laws this year to offer protection for pharmaceutical products, and it wants the changes enforced by 1989.

A well-informed source said the U.S. demand was tabled before a Thai negotiating team led by Minister to the MP's Office Arun Phanuphong to Washington DC last month.

Arun's counterpart on the American side was U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter. Both sides attempted to end growing trade friction between the two countries, however, officials on both sides declined to give away details of the talks to the media at the time.

Thai negotiators attempted to explain to American officials the importance of exports to the well-being of the Thai economy.

Thailand would be "hurt" by U.S. trade protectionist measures, they said, citing this country's willingness to cooperate with the U.S. all along in the eradication of narcotics and communism and treatment of refugees.

Yeutter limited the talks to trade issues, however, and avoided political issues. He stressed the great importance being attached to the issue of intellectual property rights by the U.S. including patent protection for pharmaceutical products and copyright.

Yeutter was quoted as saying that Thailand had violated these rights. He was quoted as bluntly saying: "A one-hour delay means U.S. benefit is stolen by another hour."

The U.S. official charged that Thailand had not tried hard enough to amend the copyright law (although the Thai Parliament is due to debate three options on the proposed amendment).

Yeutter repeated the importance of the pharmaceutical products patent issue and demanded that Thailand amend the law to include patent protection for pharmaceutical products.

The U.S. government demanded that a 20-year patent term be drafted into law this year and enforced next year, in a reaction that appears to closely follow the filing of a petition by the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association of America.

The existing Thai patent law offers patent protection to 15 years, equal to the Paris Convention. Pharmaceutical products, agricultural machinery, food and soft drinks are excluded from the law.

The Thai side told Yeutter the U.S. should not pressure Thailand in bilateral talks where the U.S. holds the advantage; the issue should be raised at the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations before the forum of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

But the U.S. insisted that the issue be negotiated at both bilateral and multilateral levels.

American officials argued that the U.S. had engaged in researching and developing AIDS medicines and the world should give patent protection to discoveries for the benefit of America.

The U.S. delegation made it clear that other trade issues involving cigarettes, apples, plastic, chestnuts, wheat, telecommunications and soybean protein imports could wait.

Issues on other topics such as the relaxation on entries of American banks and insurance companies also appeared less urgent to the U.S. side, informed sources said.

The U.S. side threatened retaliatory measures including the elimination of the General System of Preference and the use of Section 301 of the Trade Act to curtail Thai exports to America.

U.S. officials raised the demands of various U.S. associations against Thailand, including child labour abuses.

Thailand insisted on her independence to make decisions concerning welfare, not necessarily agreeing to what the U.S. asked.

Six CPT Members Rounded Up in Northeast

BK150953 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 15 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] In his capacity as the ISOC [Internal Security Operations Command] provincial chief, the governor of Mukdahan Thanom Channuwong reported on 14 March that, as a result of suppression campaigns against communist insurgents of the Phu Phan area of operations, authorities rounded up six communist suspects on 9 and 12 March. The suspects are: Somli Phromphinit, or Comrade Khachat, aged 51; Thuang Sukkhli, or Comrade Amphai, aged 53; Tem Uanwang, or Comrade Kan, aged 63; Wang Uanwang or Comrade Wat, aged 36; Bunmi Uanwang or Comrade Naksuksa, aged 57; and Chu Takwak or Comrade Thongdaeng, aged 56. The first four suspects were arrested in Ban Kaengna, Tambon Phayung, Muang District, Kalasin Province. The other two were arrested in Muang District of Khon Kaen Province.

Somli was a member of the CPT [Communist Party of Thailand] Central Committee and secretary general of the party unit in the upper northeast. The six suspects are being investigated by authorities, whose findings will be reported to central agencies.

Hydroelectric Project Called 'Political Matter'

BK130316 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Mar 88 p 10

[From the "Inprint" column: "Politics and Nam Choan"]

[Text] People in high places perceive a need to explore the political repercussions if the Nam Choan dam were given the go ahead, LAK THAI reports.

According to the weekly, sources close to Deputy Prime Minister Thianchai Sirisamphan feel it is more important to establish what these repercussions would be than to gather additional data on the pros and cons of the project.

The affair reportedly is no longer seen as a simple conflict of interests but a political matter which the parliamentary opposition wants to use as a condition for ousting the Government.

The weekly notes that the Government is outnumbered by those in opposition to the dam. There is "no comparison" as students enjoy wide support in their action, so much so that there is talk of the possibility of Nam Choan culminating in an October 14, 1973 situation [when student riots led to fall of Thanom Kittikhachon government], it adds.

The tension earlier grew more acute after Deputy Prime Minister Thianchai Sirisamphan, who heads the government committee studying the project, made comments deemed hard-line and unsuitable to his position, the weekly notes.

Instead of observing what should be a neutral stand, it goes on, he leaned to the side of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand which wants the dam to be built.

Gen Thianchai at the time said students were putting up opposition without knowing the facts.

According to the weekly, Gen Thianchai had then only seen a one-sided picture. Since receiving more information, and following suggestions that there could be a repeat of the October 1973 events, he has become more accomodating, saying both sides were entitled to air views.

The committee headed by the Deputy Prime Minister is due to submit its assessment on March 28. The opposition to the project comprises students, members of the general public, opposition and government MPs and former prime minister Khukrit Pramot.

Vietnam

VNA Reports Hanoi Meetings on MIA's

BK151551 Hanoi VNA in English 1539 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 15—Two groups of Vietnamese and U.S. specialists on Americans missing in action in the Vietnam war met in Hanoi from March 12-15, 1988.

The meeting made under an agreement reached between the Vietnamese and U.S. Governments was the 4th of its kind since the visit to Vietnam by the U.S. President's special envoy, General John Vessey, in August 1987.

The Vietnamese side affirmed Vietnam's humanitarian policy in settling the issue of Americans missing in action and, at the same time stressed the responsibility of both sides in implementing seriously the reached agreements.

The Vietnam side gave the U.S. side preliminary information on 29 cases of missing American servicemen, and organized for the U.S. specialists team a trip to a plane crash site in Do Son District, Hai Phong city.

The U.S. side highly valued Vietnam's good will, humanitarian policy and cooperation. It also gave accounts of a number of American servicemen missing in Vietnam, including some of 70 cases with inconsistent information.

The U.S. specialists left here today.

Government Examining 29 Cases

BK141654 Hong Kong AFP in English 1626 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi, March 14 (AFP)—Vietnam is examining 29 cases of U.S. servicemen listed as missing in action (MIA) during the Vietnam war, the leader of a U.S. delegation said here Monday.

Lieutenant Colonel John Harvey said at the end of three days of talks here with a Vietnamese delegation led by Nguyen Can, deputy director of the North American Department of Vietnam's Foreign Affairs Ministry, that their discussions had been "positive and productive."

"Our discussions were confined on the issue of Americans missing in Vietnam," said Lt. Col. Harvey, who is from the Hawaii-based Joint Casualty Resolution Center which is in charge of the search for MIA's in Indochina.

"We gave them new case material and they gave us information about cases. They said they are investigating 29 instances where they have received reports about missing Americans," he said.

Asked about the possibility of another Vietnam-U.S. joint excavation like the one carried out at the end of 1985 in the outskirts of Hanoi, Lt. Col. Harvey said: "We have not made any specific proposal, but of course we would be delighted to jointly excavate any crash site that suggests there would be American remains to be recovered."

The U.S. delegation was invited Sunday to visit a site where a U.S. warplane crashed close to the port of Hai Phong (east of Hanoi).

There are 1,770 U.S. MIA's listed in Vietnam, according to U.S. figures. Hanoi has returned the remains of 159.

Bones believed to be of 17 U.S. soldiers were sent to Hawaii on March 2 to be analyzed at the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory.

Lt. Col. Harvey, who leaves Tuesday with the delegation for Bangkok, said the date of the next MIA technical meeting had not yet been fixed.

PRC Envoy Handed Diplomatic Note on Spratlys

BK150621 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0520 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Today, 15 March, Comrade Nguyen Phuong Vu, head of the China Department of our Foreign Ministry, handed to Chinese Ambassador to Hanoi Li Shuchin a diplomatic note from our Foreign Ministry to its Chinese counterpart. The following is the content of the note:

Following the acts of violation of Vietnam's territorial sovereignty that have taken place since January 1988 at the two coral reefs of Chu Thap and Chau Vien and, most recently, at some other points belonging to the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago of Vietnam, on 14 March 1988 the Chinese authorities sent several warships to carry out provocations and to fire on Vietnamese freighters at the Gac Ma coral reef, in the Sinh Ton Island area. The Chinese warships that were engaged in illegal activities also obstructed the normal movements of Vietnamese freighters inside Vietnam's territorial waters and in international waters.

The points raised in the 14 March 1988 note from the PRC Foreign Ministry to the Vietnamese Embassy in China are a complete reversal of the facts, changing black into white. The 14 March 1988 statement by the SRV Foreign Ministry has clearly exposed and severely condemned the wrongful actions of the Chinese side. Committed in total disregard of the protest by the Vietnamese people and Government and of the deep concerns of international opinion and the countries bordering the East Sea, and running counter to the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples' wishes for friendly coexistence, these acts have once again shown that the Chinese authorities have deliberately used force in an attempt to broaden the scale of conflict in the sea area of the Truong Sa Archipelago. These acts may lead to unfathomable consequences and require utmost vigilance on the part of public opinion in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

The SRV Government once again affirms its sovereignty over the Truong Sa [Spratly] and Hoang Sa [Paracel] Archipelagoes. The people and Government of Vietnam resolutely protest these acts of military provocation and the grabbing of Vietnamese territory by the Chinese authorities. At the same time, they will resolutely apply all necessary measures to protect their independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The Chinese must put an immediate end to all armed encroachments on Vietnam's territorial sovereignty and must withdraw their military forces at once from the sea area of the Truong Sa Archipelago. They must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from their acts.

Reportage on Funeral for Chairman Pham Hung

Wreath-Laying Ceremony Held

BK141553 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Station correspondent Kim Cuc's report on the 14 March wreath-laying ceremony in Hanoi for the deceased chairman of the Council of Ministers, Pham Hung]

[Summary] Dear comrades and friends: Today, a wreath-laying ceremony was solemnly held in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi to pay homage to the late chairman of the Council of Ministers, Pham Hung. Since early this morning, many Vietnamese and foreign delegations have come to pay their last respects to the prestigious leader of our party and state.

Comrade Pham Hung's body lay in state in a glass coffin placed on a red velvet carpet. Two rows of stern-looking, white-uniformed honor guards stood along both sides of the coffin. The comrade members of the Political Bureau and Secretariat, ministers, and VPA generals took turns paying homage and attending to the late Comrade Pham Hung's surviving family.

"At 0800 sharp, the CPV Central Committee delegation, led by General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, and advisers to the party Central Committee, Truong Chinh, Pham Van Dong, and Le Duc Tho, began the homage-paying ceremony by laying a wreath in memory of the late Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Hung. The wreath carried the words: In extreme mournful memory of Comrade Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Hung. The comrades of the Political Bureau and Secretariat, and the members and alternate members of the party Central Committee emotionally bowed before their beloved comrade."

They went on to pay their condolences to the members of Pham Hung's surviving family.

Delegations of the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, and the VFF Central Committee were led respectively by Le Quang Dao, Vo Chi Cong, Vo Van Kiet, and Hoang Quoc Viet. They took turns laying wreaths and expressing their grief over Comrade Pham Hung's death.

"The Central Commission delegation of the military party committee, led by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, its secretary, and the national defense minister, Senior General Le Duc Anh, laid a wreath in memory of Comrade Pham Hung."

Delegations of the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions and the Women's Union, led respectively by Pham The Duyet and Nguyen Thi Dinh, and the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union delegation took turns paying homage to Comrade Pham Hung.

Also paying homage to Comrade Pham Hung today were delegations of cadres, combatants, and people of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh cities, and Song Be, Hau Giang, and Cuu Long Provinces, and more than 150 delegations from various agencies, sectors, and ministries at the central level.

"Party-state delegations from the Soviet Union, the LPDR, and the PRK arrived in Vietnam today. No sooner had they come than they paid tribute to Comrade Pham Hung. The Soviet party-state delegation, led by Comrade Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Political Bureau and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, arrived in Hanoi at 1700."

The delegation's wreath carried the words: The Soviet party and government delegation respectfully pays tribute to Comrade Pham Hung, the Soviet people's great friend. In the condolence book, the delegation wrote: On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet Presidium, the Soviet Council of Ministers, and all the Soviet people, we express our heartfelt condolences over the death of Comrade Pham Hung.

The LPDR delegation, led by Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, paid homage to Comrade Pham Hung with profound sentiment.

"In the condolence book, the Lao party and state delegation wrote: Comrade Pham Hung is a great and faithful friend of the Lao people of various nationalities. He contributed significantly to consolidating and strengthening the friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between Laos and Vietnam. He unswervingly supported the cause of national liberation and defense and the cause of building socialism for the Lao people. The passing away of Comrade Pham Hung is a great loss to the fraternal Vietnamese party, state, and people. It is also a great loss to our Lao party, state, and people. We bid farewell to Comrade Pham Hung with boundless regret. We will look upon his lifetime struggle for the revolution as a brilliant example."

The PRK delegation, led by Comrade Hun Sen, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, paid homage to Comrade Pham Hung with deep sentiment from the Cambodian people. The PRK delegation's wreath carried the inscription: "Boundless grief for the loss of Comrade Pham Hung, a very close friend of the Cambodian people."

"In the condolence book, the Cambodian party and state delegation wrote: The Cambodian party, state, and people express their utmost regret for the passing away of Comrade Pham Hung, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers. Comrade Pham Hung was an unyielding communist combatant and a beloved leader of the Vietnamese people, and a very close friend of the Cambodian people who greatly contributed to the Cambodian revolutionary cause and to the Cambodian-Vietnamese special relationship."

Also paying homage to Comrade Pham Hung today were almost 50 delegations from foreign embassies and international organizations. These included delegations from the embassies of the USSR, Laos, Cambodia, Bulgaria, the DPRK, Albania, Thailand, Indonesia, Iraq, Mongolia, Cuba, Malaysia, Libya, Yugoslavia, Japan, the GDR, Czechoslovakia, the Philippines, Switzerland, India, Afghanistan, Egypt, Burma, France, the UK, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Romania, Algeria, Poland, Australia, Hungary, China, Finland, Nicaragua, and a representative from the PLO office.

Funeral Services for Pham Hung

BK150500 [Editorial Report] Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese at 0030 GMT on 15 March begins a "special program" of live coverage of the memorial service and funeral for the late chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, Pham Hung, with two announcers taking turns providing related background information.

First, the announcer describes the "sudden, deep anguish" felt nationwide after news of Pham Hung's death was broken, then cites the special communique jointly issued by the CPV Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, and the VFF Central Cmmmittee Presidium on the circumstances of the late chairman's demise. A biographical sketch follows, emphasizing Pham Hung's "life-long contributions to the cause of national liberation, national reunification, and advancing the entire country to socialism." Looking back at preceding events, the announcer recalls the ceremony held at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi on 14 March with the participation of a CPV Central Committee delegation led by party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and more than 170 other delegations to pay homage to the late chairman. The announcer points out: "Yesterday, party and state delegations from the Soviet Union, Laos, and Cambodia arrived to pay respects to Comrade Pham Hung. Nearly 50 delegations of the foreign embassies and representations of various international organizations in Hanoi laid wreaths in the memory of the late chairman of the Council of Ministers."

Following a 3-minute interlude during which somber music is played, the announcer reports: "During the past few days, our party and government have received numerous messages of condolence from many foreign parties and governments and international organizations." However, only the message from the Soviet party and state leaders is quoted. The announcer then switches to a brief description of scenes outside and inside the Ba Dinh Conference Hall, where Pham Hung lies in state. At 0058, the announcer begins detailing the presence of the Vietnamese leadership and foreign guests at the ceremony. He reports: "In the front-row seats, we see the comrades of the Political Bureau and advisers to the party Central Committee. In the middle of the row is Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, and next to him are Comrades Vo Chi Cong, Vo Van Kiet, Truong Chinh, Pham Van Dong, Le Duc Tho, Do Muoi, Le Duc Anh, Nguyen Duc Tam, Nguyen Co Thach, Tran Xuan Bach, Mai Chi Tho, Dong Sy Nguyen, and Nguyen Thanh Binh. Also in the front row are Comrade Talyzin, head of the Soviet party and government delegations; Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, head of the Lao party and government delegation; and Comrade Hun Sen, head of the Cambodian party and government delegation. In the second row are the comrade members of the Party Central Committee Secretariat and the Standing Committees of the Council of Ministers and National Assembly; representatives of the various mass organizations, the Socialist Party, the Democratic Party; and the comrade secretary of the Cuu Long Provincial Party Committee. Next are numerous delegates representing various central and Hanoi organs, the Armed Forces, and the armed branches and services. Also attending the memorial service for Comrade Pham Hung this morning are the party and government delegations of the Soviet Union, the LPDR, and the PRK; the diplomatic corps; representatives of the various international organizations in Hanoi; and a large number of local and foreign news agency and press correspondents."

At 0100, the radio announces: "The memorial service for Comrade Pham Hung, chairman of the Council of Ministers, officially begins." After the national anthem is played, party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh is invited by an unidentified official to read his 7-minute eulogy.

At 0109, after Nguyen Van Linh ends his eulogy, the participants are invited to observe 1 minute of silence in memory of Pham Hung to the sound of the dirge. The unidentified official then announces a few minutes recess during which a medley of songs popular in the past wars of resistance are played.

At 0118, the announcer says: "The coffin of Comrade Pham Hung has been carried by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and Comrades Vo Chi Cong, Vo Van Kiet, Truong Chinh, Pham Van Dong, Le Duc Tho, Do Muoi, Le Duc Anh, Nguyen Duc Tam, Nguyen Co Thach, Tran Xuan Bach, Mai Chi Tho, Dong Sy Nguyen, and Nguyen Thanh Binh; many other comrades; and Comrade Pham Hung's family, from the anteroom to the front door of the Ba Dinh Conference Hall and placed on a gun carriage, flanked by two rows of solemn-looking, gun-carrying honor guards from the three armed services—the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force."

He adds: "Comrade Pham Hung is being escorted to his eternal resting place at the Mai Dich Cemetery in Hanoi."

The announcer then says that the hearse, preceeded by a car bearing a portrait of Pham Hung and followed by wreath-carrying vehicles and "cars of the party and state leaders," begins to proceed to the Mai Dich Cemetery.

The radio ends its live coverage of Pham Hung's funeral at 0127 GMT.

Nguyen Van Linh Eulogy

BK150350 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0102 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Eulogy delivered by CPV Central Committee General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh at Council of Ministers Chairman Pham Hung's Hanoi funeral ceremony—live]

[Text] Compatriots and combatants nationwide, comrades and friends: Comrade Pham Hung, member of the CVP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman

of the SRV Council of Ministers, an outstanding son of the nation, a staunch communist fighter, and a leader with great prestige within the party and the state, has left us forever.

His death constitutes a great loss to our entire party and people. A disciple of venerated President Ho Chi Minh, Comrade Pham Hung, affectionately known to all of us as Brother Hai Hung, engaged in revolutionary activities for almost 60 years for the cause of the fatherland's independence and freedom, the people's happiness, and the communist ideal.

Under the French colonialist regime, the comrade lived and struggled inside the Con Dao Prison for 15 consecutive years, almost all of his youthful life. After the triumph of the August 1945 revolution, he was released from jail. He participated in guiding the struggle against French colonialism in the south for 9 years during which time he assumed such heavy responsibilities as secretary of the Provisional Party Committee for Southern Vietnam, assistant secretary of the party Central Committee's Office for South Vietnam and concurrently secretary and chairman of the Resistance Administrative Committee for the Eastern Interzone of Southern Vietnam, and head of the delegation of the Vietnam People's Army to the Mixed Armistice Committee in South Vietnam.

From 1956 until his death, the comrade was one of the important party leaders holding such responsible posts as member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the party Central Committee, secretary of the party Central Committee's Office for South Vietnam, political commissar of the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces, political commissar of the Ho Chi Minh Campaign Headquarters, deputy prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, vice chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers and concurrently minister of interior, chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, National Assembly deputy for several terms of office, vice chairman of the National Defense Council of the Eighth National Assembly, and standing member of the CPV Central Committee's Military Commission.

Comrade Pham Hung always maintained his lofty revolutionary spirit of never giving in when faced with difficulties and never showing fear when faced with danger, being ready to sacrifice everything for the nation and the people, and maintaining firm confidence in final victory.

Defying shackles and torture while in the imperialist prison, and braving harsh and rigorous conditions on the southern battlefield, especially during the years of the war of resistance against the U.S. for national salvation, the comrade fought persistently and demonstrated his wonderful bravery and energy.

The comrade was a leader, an organizer, and a practitioner who, with a strong sense of responsibility, scrupulousness, and of setting a standard, was always intent on preserving unity within the party and devoted all of his energy to fulfilling the tasks assigned him by the party, state, and people. The comrade worked hard until his last breath. He suddenly died while directing work in Ho Chi Minh City and other southern provinces and working under stress to solve pressing matters concerning the life of our people throughout the country. Just as the comrade told the cadres and workers at the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power plant project site early this year: As long as we are still alive, we must work and struggle.

During his working life, Comrade Pham Hung always held high his genuine patriotism and pure proletarian internationalism by joining with our entire party and people in constantly strengthening their unity with the Soviet Union, Laos, Cambodia, and other fraternal socialist countries as well as with the international communist and workers movement and with national liberation movements throughout the world.

Following the path of great President Ho Chi Minh, the comrade led a simple life. With all his sincerity, he maintained close ties to, and had affection for, his comrades and compatriots and paid attention to the aspirations and suggestions of the people. In his family life, the comrade was an exemplary husband and father who scrupulously educated his children and his close relatives on how to follow the revolutionary path charted by the party.

Comrade Pham Hung's meritorious contributions to our country's revolution are very great. The comrade's active and diverse revolutionary life serves as a bright example for all our Vietnamese communists and people. Although the comrade is no longer with us, his image will live forever in our hearts.

In these extremely grievous hours, let us share the immense sorrow of comrade Pham Hung's family. Our entire party, people, and Army pledge to follow Comrade Pham Hung's bright example by strengthening our solidarity and unanimity around the party Central Committee, striving to work productively, practice thrift, and overcome all difficulties and ordeals, stabilize the situation in all respects, and successfuly carry out renovation in accordance with the spirit of the resolution of the Sixth CPV Congress.

Good-bye Brother Hai Hung.

Leaders Receive Delegations Attending Funeral

Talyzin, Soviet Delegation

BK141719 Hanoi VNA in English 1656 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 14—Vietnamese party and state leaders received here today a Soviet party and state delegation led by M.V. Talyzin, alternate member of the

Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and first vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, which is here for attending Chairman Pham Hung's funeral.

The Vietnamese leaders included Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and president of the State Council; Vo Van Kiet, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and acting chairman of the Council of Ministers; Do Muoi, Politburo member and secretary of the party Central Committee; Dong Sy Nguyen, Politburo member of the party Central Commitoee and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Tran Xuan Bach, Politiburo member and secretary of the party Central Committee.

Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam D.I. Kachin was among the guests.

The Soviet head delegate conveyed to the Communist Party, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers and the people of Vietnam deep condolences from the Soviet party, state and people over the death of Chairman Pham Hung. He praised the deceased as a staunch communist, whose revolutionary activities, he said, were closely attached to the Vietnamese people's revolutionary struggle. Chairman Pham Hung's demise is a great loss to both the Vietnamese and the Soviet peoples.

On this occasion, Vice-Chairman Talyzin welcomed the Vietnamese people's great achievements in carrying out the objectives set by the 6th CPV Congress. He affirmed the Soviet party, government and people's full support for their socialist construction and their struggle to defend independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

On behalf of the Vietnamese leaders, President Vo Chi Cong thanked the Soviet party, state and government for sending a delegation to Chairman Pham Hung's funeral. The president voiced full support for the Soviet Union's correct foreign policy and peace initiatives for preserving peace and security in the world.

Earlier, the Soviet party and state delegation paid a floral tribute to Chairman Pham Hung who lies in state at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall. Then Vice-Chairman Talyzin and his party signed the mourners' book.

Hun Sen, PRK Delegation

BK141736 Hanoi VNA in English 1713 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 14—Vietnamese party and state leaders received here today a Kampuchean party and state delegation led by Hun Sen, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, which is here for Chairman Pham Hung's funeral.

The hosts included Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the C.P.V. Central Committee and president of the State Council; Vo Van Kiet, Politburo member of the C.P.V. Central Committee and acting chairman of the Council of Ministers; Do Muoi, Politburo member and secretary of the C.P.V. Central Committee, and Tran Xuan Bach, Politburo member and secretary of the C.P.V. Central Committee.

Kampuchean Ambassador Tep Henn was present at the reception.

Chairman Hun Sen conveyed to the Vietnamese party, state government and people profound condolences freom the Kampuchean party, state and people over the death of Pham Hung. He praised the deceased as a staunch communist, a beloved leader of the Vietnamese people, and a very close friend of the Kampuchean people, who had made great contributions to Kampuchea's revolution and to the cultivation of the Vietnam-Kampuchea special ties.

He said that the Kampuchean people pledge to do their utmost to further promote the close, all-round cooperation between the two parties and peoples, considering it a source of force to firmly defend the revolutionary gains of each country. He wished the Vietnamese people successes in implementing the resolution of the 6th C.P.V. Congress, particularly in the socio-economic renovation. He fully supported the Vietnamese people's national construction and defence for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

President Vo Chi Cong thanked the Kampuchean party, state and people for sending a delegation to the funeral of Chairman Pham Hung to share in this great loss of the Vietnamese people.

Vo Chi Cong wished the Kampuchean people new and ever greater successes in national construction and defence. He voice Vietnam's total support for the policy of national reconciliation of Kampuchea, and welcomed the meetings between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk in search for a peaceful solution to the Kampuchean issue.

Earlier, the Kampuchean party and state delegation had paid final homage to Chairman Pham Hung who lies in state at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall.

Hun Sen and his party wrote in the condolences book.

Laotian Delegation

BK141737 Hanoi VNA in English 1706 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 14—Vietnamese party and state leaders received here this afternoon the Lao party and government delegation led by Nouhak Phoumsavan, Politburo member of the L.P.R.P. Central Committee and first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, which had just arrived for the funeral of the late chairman of the Council of Ministers, Pham Hung.

The host included Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the C.P.V. Central Committee and president of the State Council; Vo Van Kiet, Politburo member of the party C.C. [Central Committee] and acting-chairman of the Council of Ministers; Do Muoi and Tran Xuan Bach, Politburo members and secretaries of the party C.C.

Nouhak Phoumsavan spoke highly of the late Vietnamese chairman who, he said, was a close friend of the Lao people and made active contributions to strengthening the special Lao-Vietnamese relationship. He reaffirmed that the Lao party, government and people would loyally follow the path pointed out by President Ho Chi Minh and do their best to further consolidate and develop the time-honoured relationship between the two parties and two countries in the interests of each country. He voiced full support for Vietnam's socialist construction as well as the struggle to defend its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In reply, Vo Chi Cong expressed gratitude to the Lao party and Government for sending a delegation to the funeral.

He also acclaimed the great achievements recorded by the Lao people in their national construction and defence. He welcomed the success of the recent Lao-Thai negotiation and voiced full support for Laos's well-meaning proposals to solve the Lao-Thai border dispute.

Earlier, the Lao delegation had paid a floral tribute to Pham Hung at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall.

Nouhak Phoumsanvan and his party signed in the mourners' book.

Ryzhkov Pays Homage to Pham Hung in Moscow

BK151617 Hanoi VNA in English 1549 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 15—Nikolay Ryzhkov, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, yesterday paid homage to the late chairman of the Council of Ministers, Pham Hung, at the Vietnamese Embassy in Moscow.

He was accompanied by Vladimir Kamentsev and Boris Shcherbina, members of the CPSU Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, and B.N. Chaplin, alternate member of the CPSU CC [Central Committee] and deputy foreign minister.

Chairman N. Ryzhkov expressed his profound grief over the demise of chairman Pham Hung and recalled beautiful impressions on and good memories of the late chairman.

He asked Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Manh Cam to convey the profound condolences of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and the Soviet leadership to the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and the Vietnamese leadership.

The Vietnames ambassador thanked the Soviet leadership for its deep condolences which have demonstrated the time-honoured friendship and close solidarity between the two parties, two states and two peoples of Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

GDR's Stoph Pays Homage at Berlin Embassy

BK150942 Hanoi VNA in English 0707 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 15—A GDR party and government delegation led by Wille Stoph, Political Bureau member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) Central Committee, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, yesterday afternoon paid homage to the late chairman of the Council of Ministers, Pham Hung, at the Vietnamese Embassy in Berlin.

The delegation also included Horst Soelle, member of the SED Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers; Ludwig Mecklinger, minister of public health; and others.

The homagers observed a minute of silence in memory of Chairman Pham Hung, and wrote in the mourners' book, expressing profound grief over the demise of Pham Hung, a genuine revolutionary and patriot who had devoted all his life to Vietnam's cause of national liberation and defense and made big contributions to the consolidation and strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the GDR and Vietnam.

Ha Van Thang, Vietnamese charge d'affaires a.i. in the GDR, sincerely thanked the GDR party, government, and people for their high appraisal of the late Vietnamese chairman.

DPRK's Yi Kun-mo Sends Condolence Message

SK151059 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—Premier of the Administration Council Yi Kun-mo sent a message of condolence to Vo Van Kiet, acting chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Upon hearing the sad news that Pham Hung, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the SRV, died, Premier Yi Kun-mo in the message expressed deep condolence to Vo Van Kiet and the Council of Ministers and the people of Vietnam and the bereaved family of the deceased.

Army Journal on Purification Campaign

BK100325 Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese Jan 88 pp 6-9

[Editorial: "Carry Out the Great Campaign Within the Army Successfully"]

[Text] Together with the entire party and people, cadres and combatants of the People's Army welcome with high elation the party Central Committee Political Bureau resolution on the "campaign to purify the party organization and state machinery, enhance their militancy, and ameliorate social relations" in compliance with the sixth party congress resolution. This campaign meets the pressing needs of the revolutionary undertaking in economic and national construction as well as in the development of the Army and consolidation of national defense. It also satisfies the earnest wish of our entire party, Army, and people in view of the present situation. As pointed out in the Political Bureau's resolution: "The crux of the campaign is to seek a thorough understanding of President Ho Chi Minh's teachings so as to shape a new socialist type of man and life-style, safeguard socialist property, and restore discipline within the party organization and state machinery and in society. [quotation marks as published]

As a component of the people, our Army must reflect the country's political, economic, social, cultural, and ethical conditions and situation. Army party organizations, which are part of the entire party, must also reflect many positive and negative aspects of our Armed Forces, people, and party. Army party organizations as well as the entire Armed Forces should seek a thorough understanding of the Political Bureau resolution and apply it correctly to their specific conditions. This is aimed at making the Army party organizations pure and strong and turning the people's Armed Forces into a regular and increasingly modern army. The great campaign of the party and state has a strong impact on the Army and, in return, the great campaign within the Army also contributes positively to the great campaign of the party and state throughout the country.

Since embarking on the new revolutionary stage under the leadership of the party and thanks to the close coordination of all echelons, sectors, and localities as well as the care given by the entire people, our Army has exerted great efforts in its combat duties on various battlefields. While participating in the struggle against the war of sabotage waged by the enemy, it has built itself into a regular and modern army, contributed to economic development, and fulfilled its glorious international duty. Heroic examples in undergoing sacrifice, enduring hardship, and firmly maintaining ethical and revolutionary quality under the new situation have continued to emerge. However, apart from these achievements, many negative phenomena have also been uncovered in certain Army party organizations and units as well as among troops, party members, and cadres at all levels. Regrettably, there are no negative phenomena less painful to the revolutionary nature and fine tradition of the people's Army as well as to the noble title of Communist Party member.

It can be said that almost all negative phenomena in society have also been observed, on either a small or large scale, in the Army and Army party organizations. This has not only caused our troops to fail to develop their active revolutionary role in the struggle against negativism but has also made this struggle more complicated. Under the leadership of the party, the people's Army is an advanced component of the working class. The revolutionary nature of the Army does not tolerate the existence of illegal acts—such as disregarding orders, doing business dishonestly, violating socialist property, holding back troop rations, oppressing soldiers, persecuting subordinates, flattering superiors, enjoying income beyond the results of one's work, leading a debauched life, and other negative phenomena—that would efface the noble image of "Uncle Ho's soldiers" who have been painstakingly fostered by our party and unfalteringly trusted by our people.

Therefore, as far as the Army is concerned the campaign launched at this time by the party provides a great opportunity to wash away all the stains, to epitomize the best example, enhance the militant strength of Army party organizations, and contribute actively to improving the comprehensive quality of the people's armed forces so as to ensure that our Army can fulfill outstandingly all the tasks entrusted to it by the party and state. It brings new health to our Army, preserves the inherent nature of the heroic Vietnam People's Army, protects the honor of an invincible army, and restores the people's confidence in the Army that is made up of their brothers and sons.

The characteristics, contents, and broad scope of the great campaign require a firm resolve, a full sense of responsibility, and a program of highly specific, carefully formulated, and regular activities from party organizations and commanding echelons.

First of all, it is necessary to disseminate widely within Army party organizations and throughout the Army the Political Bureau resolution on the characteristics, requirements, guidelines, contents, and methods of the entire campaign, and the resolution of the party Central Committee's Military Commission; and to understand the Political Bureau resolution clearly and implement it thoroughly in the Army.

In order to ensure ideological agreement among leading and commanding cadres as well as among all cadres and soldiers of every unit, each party committee echelon should adopt a guiding resolution in which plans are formulated, units are assigned to assist the party committee echelon in organization and implementation, and a system of periodic activities is devised for the entire course of the campaign. Such a resolution should fully bring into play the guiding spirit established by higher

echelons in accordance with the specific situation of the party organization and unit concerned, and outline specific activities to be carried out in the immediate future as well as throughout the course of the campaign.

Regarding the contents of the campaign, attention should be focused on the following points:

1. To purify the party and Army organizations and enhance their militancy, first, we must remove all deviant and degenerate elements; second, replace those cadres who are not determined to advocate renovation in compliance with the spirit of the sixth party congress resolution and are not capable of assuming duties; third, take suitable forms of disciplinary action against cadres and party members who commit serious mistakes and shortcomings depending on the nature and degree of these mistakes and shortcomings; and fourth, adopt appropriate measures to expel from the party those members who possess an exceedingly low level of political consciousness and who fail to win the masses' confidence.

Through practical activities of the campaign, we must educate and train cadres and party members; commend those who play an active role; promote cadres who display quality, ability, dynamism, and creativity in the performance of duties; and admit qualified cadres and combatants to party membership.

2. Apart from dealing with cadres and party members under the above-mentioned guidelines, long-term projects and step-by-step plans should be formulated for streamlining party, command, and mass organizations in compliance with the need to apply the party's system of leadership to the Army, as well as for consolidating all grass-roots organizations in particular. It is necessary to restore the principle and system of leadership of all party committee echelons, from the Military Commission of the party Central Committee down, and put them on the right track permanently. We must formulate a truly collective and democratic work style that is close to the grass-roots level and reality and reflects discipline and concern for the masses, soldiers, and cadres along with struggling against arbitrariness, despotism, bureaucratism, haughtiness, the practice of alienating oneself from the masses, and formalistic democracy.

We must live ideal, healthy, loyal, and thrifty lives; live off our own labor; care for the common good; protect public property; and oppose those who are selfish, deceitful, parasitic, luxurious, wasteful, and superstitious. We must achieve social justice in Army units, practice an open economy, implement the system of troop rations correctly, purify social relations, and strengthen internal solidarity between cadres and combatants, superiors and subordinates and among people of the same rank, and between the Army and people, as well as international solidarity. We must build a sternly disciplined pattern of life and work in line with the state law and Army regulations.

In the course of the campaign, we should strictly adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Political Bureau. We should pay attention to closely combining the campaign with the implementation of all Army tasks, enabling the campaign to exert a positive effect and not interfere with combat duties and readiness of the Army so that together with all the people we can defeat the enemy's multifaceted war of sabotage and remain prepared to cope with all circumstances. We must conduct military training, firmly maintain and improve the moral and material lives of troops, and contribute to building the all-people national defense, the economy, and the country.

We must steadily observe the principles set by the party for their activities, the state law, social discipline, and Army regulations, rules, and discipline so as to create an atmosphere of truly broad democratic activities, and we must encourage criticism and self-criticism and open, frank, and constructive dialogue. On this foundation, we will create a seething mass movement for revolutionary acts to fulfill all assigned tasks in an outstanding manner.

In order to ensure success and definitively resolve, step by step, the problems arising from the campaign lasting throughout the tenure of the sixth party congress, the Political Bureau resolution pointed out the tasks on which efforts should be concentrated from now until the end of 1988.

Throroughly aware of this spirit in the present situation and the tasks of the Army, the Central Commission of the military party committee set forth the following issues on which efforts should be focused:

—Revamp and perfect the organization and comprehensively enhance the quality of units;
—Firmly maintain and gradually improve the material and moral lives of cadres and combatants, systematize all activities, encourage creativity and initiative of the masses, and create a healthy atmosphere, and conditions for repelling negative phenomena;
—Scrupulously and adequately implement the system of party leadership over the Army, gradually establishing a firm pattern;
—Control the qualifications of party members admitted late in 1987, conduct criticism and self-criticism broadly in the party and units in connection with the general year-end review of duty performance as directed by the party Central Committee Secretariat, and, on this basis, correctly appraise the real situation of cadres and party members and formulate programs and plans to administer, train, and purify the contingents of cadres and party members;
—Continue to deal resolutely and definitively with the cases of violation of the party and Army discipline and the state law which are still outstanding or recently detected.

This campaign must ensure progress for all party members, cadres, combatants, party organizations, and units so that the Army's party organization and the whole

Army can make a step toward vigorous changes and positively contribute to purifying and strengthening the party organizations and the state agencies, and to purifying our society.

Briefs

Gorbachev Book Published

Vietnam and the Soviet Union are cooperating in publishing in Vietnamese language the book entitled: " Perestroika and New Way of Thinking for Our Country and the World," written by Soviet party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. The aim of the book is to exchange ideology without a mediator on the issues concerning everyone. The book is a dialogue, not an imposition of viewpoints. The publication of the book in Vietnamese language will help the Vietnamese understand more about the content of the present restructuring in the Soviet Union. [Text] *[Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 13 March 88 BK]*

Indian Academics Visit

Hanoi VNA March 10—T.N. Khoshoo and M. Sharma, respectively secretary of the International Department and vice chairman of the Indian Academy of Sciences (IAS), paid a four-day visit to Vietnam beginning March 7. They had working sessions with the Vietnam Institute of Sciences (VIS) and gave a number of lectures on biology and chemistry. A memo on scientific cooperation between the IAS and the VIS was signed here today by Nguyen Van Hieu, director of VIS, and Prof Khoshoo. The Indian guests have been warmly received by vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Nguyen Giap. [Text] *[Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 10 Mar 88 BK]*

Melanesian Nations Sign Regional Accord

BK140849 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] The prime ministers of Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands have signed an agreement in Port Vila formally establishing the South Pacific's first regional bloc of nations. The agreement sets out principles for cooperation among independent Melanesian countries. It was signed at a ceremony in Constitution Place in Port Vila by Father Walter Lini, Mr Paias Wingti, and Mr Ezekiel Alebua.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS says the treaty establishes what has become known as the spearhead group and focuses on the social and economic development of the Melanesian nations. It commits them to the preservation of Melanesian culture, traditions, and values as well as those of other indigenous communities in the region. It also calls for regular consultations, economic and technical cooperation, arms control, and limiting superpower rivalry in the region.

All three prime ministers in speeches today emphasized their recognition of the South Pacific Forum as the paramount regional organization. Mr Alebua said however that the stronger and more credible were subregions, such as that encompassed by the Melanesian spearhead group, the more valuable would be their contribution to the South Pacific area as a whole.

The Melanesian leaders committed themselves to independence for New Caledonia, saying that independence was the inalienable right of colonial peoples.

Mr Wingti referred to the spearhead group's success in having New Caledonia reinscribed as a nonself-governing territory by the United Nations.

The prime ministers also announced that visas would no longer be required for spearhead group's citizens traveling between Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands.

Express Support for Pacific Forum

BK130859 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Papua New Guinea's prime minister has moved to reassure the non-Melanesian nations of the South Pacific that the Melanesian countries still regard the South Pacific Forum as the region's supreme political body. Speaking on the eve of the signing in Port Vila, Vanuatu, of a document formalizing the creation of a Melanesian spearhead group, Mr Wingti, said the three Melanesian countries had interests in common which they wanted to pursue. However, he claimed Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands were not trying to break up the forum into subregional blocs.

Mr Wingti and the prime minister of Solomon Islands, Mr Ezekiel Alebua, flew into the capital of Vanuatu today for tomorrow's signing ceremony of the principles of cooperation amongst the independent states of Melanesia.

Australia

Defense Minister Defends Role of Pine Gap

BK141025 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 14 Mar 88

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] The Australian minister for defense, Mr Kim Beazley, responded to the strong allegations condemning the joint Australia-U.S. satellite facility. Mr Beazley was asked if Australian defense personnel had full access to the information stored at the Pine Gap facility.

[Begin recording] [Beazley] Absolutely. And I think that is pointed out in some detail by Des [Australian defense analyst Desmond Ball]. We have people in every significant position in the joint facility, and there is nothing that occurs at the joint facility which does not have the direct concurrence of the Australian Government.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you giving out information or do we really have to rely on Prof Ball and his books to find out more about the bases?

[Beazley] Well, I think if you look at our defense white paper, if you look at the prime minister's statement in 1984, if you look at the answers that I have been giving in the House, we have been detailing the level of Australian involvement in the joint facilities. We've been detailing their general purposes and functions—early warning of missile attack, and information gathering of a nature that supports arms control arrangements. We have been revealing, for example...[changes thought] I mean, a month or so ago, the prime minister revealed that they are playing an active part in monitoring the INF Treaty. But I think, in terms of what they do, and indeed the fact that potentially, they may be in certain circumstances nuclear targets, these are the matters that we've been very happy to talk about in public for a number of years now.

[Reporter] Well apart from the arguably good work that Pine Gap does in terms of deterrence, what about its purpose as a spying base for the United States? Doesn't that put Australia in an invidious position at times?

[Beazley] We have an arrangement for the exchange of intelligence information with the United States. This is something that I have been making quite a point of when defending the benefits of a relationship with the United States within the framework of the government's defense policy of self-reliance. There are trade-offs. The fact that the bases can play a part in dealing with early warning of missile attack and in monitoring arms control agreement

means they contribute to the stability of the international system. And then on the question of an exchange of information, surely the United States get some things which are more useful to them than they are to us. We get other information from the United States which is of more use to us than it is to the United States. It is a process of exchange that is involved there, and at the end of the process, United States certainly gets very material and substantial benefits, and so do we. [end recording]

Fiji

Prime Minister Mara Assures Peace, Stability

BK130911 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] The Fiji prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, has said there will be no further military coups in his country. Speaking during a gathering on the remote Fiji island of (La Cola), Ratu Sir Kamisese said he would give an assurance on the stability of Fiji. He said that despite what the overseas media said there would not be a third coup, but there would be peace and stability in the period before the handover to a properly elected government after 2 years.

The prime minister and President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau were 2 of about 80 prominent guests at a party hosted by an American publisher, Mr Malcolm Forbes, who bought (La Cola) 15 years ago. Also present was Brigadier General Sitiveni Rabuka, the leader of last year's two military coups.

New Caledonia

Kanaks Plan To Boycott April Elections

BK130552 Hong Kong AFP in English 0524 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Papeete, March 13 (AFP)—Pro-independence Kanaks (Melanesians) will boycott regional elections in New Caledonia and the French presidential polls, a separatist leader has said here.

The Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) would not field candidates or take part in regional elections in the French Pacific territory on April 24, FLNKS Vice-President Yeiwene Yeiwene said in Tahiti Saturday.

"We will also boycott the (French) presidential election because by a political manoeuvre the two votes take place on the same day," he added.

"The fight for independence and against nuclear testing are one and the same," he added.

The FLNKS opposes testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific.

Mr Yeiwene was invited to Tahiti by Oscar Temaru, the pro-independence mayor of a community neighboring the Tahitian capital of Papeete and president of the Polynesian Liberation Front.

The FLNKS also organized a boycott of a referendum in September to decide whether the South Pacific archipelago should remain a French colony.

Eighty percent of Melanesians boycotted the referendum, but European settlers and other Asians living in New Caledonia voted overwhemingly to remain a French colony.

New Zealand

Government Employees in 'Largest-Ever' Strike

BK140845 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] The New Zealand public service has today been crippled by the largest-ever strike by government employees. The 1-day strike is in protest at legislation which government unions claim will destroy the public service.

A Radio Australia correspondent in Wellington says hospitals, schools, all government departments, air services, radio and television have all been seriously affected by the massive strike.

The government unions claim the legislation currently before Parliament will fragment the public sector, destroy conditions of employment, and lead to the politicization of top jobs.

Solomon Islands

Talks To Be Held on 'Illegal' U.S. Fishing

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[Text] The Solomon Islands Government is to hold talks with the United States over a reported discovery of two American tuna boats illegally fishing in the Solomon's exclusive economic zone.

Radio Australia correspondent, Sean Dorney, reports that the boats were sighted from the air last week. The boats had been tracked by the newly opened Maritime Surveillance Center in Honiara—one of a number being established in the South Pacific under the Australian Defense Cooperation Program.

The Solomon Islands police commissioner, Mr Fred Suaki, said the American tuna boats had been photographed fishing less than 100 miles from land.

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